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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-190 *2 October 1995*

CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Expelled Palestinians Continues 1
'Large Numbers' Said Leaving Libya *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Envoy: Libya To Expel up to 5,000 More *[AFP]* 1
Radio Reports Departures Continue *[Tripoli Radio]* 1
Palestinians Arrive at Egyptian Border *[JANA]* 2
Over 190 More Arrive at Border *[MENA]* 2
'Return' Committee Sends Memo to UN *[JANA]* 2
Murzuq Palestinians Support Return *[Tripoli TV]* 3
UNHCR Calls on Libya To Stop Expulsions *[Jericho VOP]* 3
'Arafat Calls Palestinians' Expulsion 'Tragedy' *[London MBC TV]* 3
'Arafat Calls on Others To Intervene *[MENA]* 3
Egyptians, Libyans Argue Over Palestinians *[AFP]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

Family Says U.S. Palestinian 'Tortured to Death' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Security Official Denies Report *[Jericho VOP]* 5
'Arafat Announces Jerusalem as Constituency *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Oct]* 5
Gaza Opposition, Hebron Mayor React to Accord *[HA'ARETZ 29 Sep]* 7
Islamic Figure Says Accord Ignores Basic Issues *[Jericho VOP]* 7
PFLP-GC's Jibril Blames U.S. for Taba Accord *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 8
PFLP-GC Sends 'Arafat Congratulatory Cable *[Jericho VOP]* 8
PFLP-GC Cadres Reportedly Join Splinter Group *[AL-URDUN 2 Oct]* 8
Prisoner Release Delayed by 'Technical Difficulties' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Official Sees 'Procrastination' *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Radio Reports U.S. Pledge of $50 Million in Aid *[Jericho VOP]* 8

Arab-Israeli Talks

King Husayn Addresses Signing Ceremony *[Amman TV]* 9
Jordan's King Husayn Meets With President Clinton 9
Meets Prior to Signing Ceremony *[Amman TV]* 9
Meeting Held Following Day *[Amman TV]* 10
King Husayn Comments on Meeting With Mubarak *[Amman TV]* 10
Jordan's King Husayn, Israel's Rabin Interviewed *[Jerusalem TV]* 11
Rabin Welcomes Proposal To Move U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem *[Jerusalem TV]* 11
Rabin Explains West Bank Redeployment Schedule *[Jerusalem TV]* 11
Rabin Says U.S. 'To Consider' Pollard Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Rabin Criticizes U.S. Jewry on Immigration Issues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Rabin, Peres on Peace, Personal Relations *[Jerusalem Channel 2 TV]* 12
Peres on Accord Implementation, Egyptian POW Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Egyptian President Mubarak Meets With Clinton *[MENA]* 15
Mubarak Meets Perry, Leaders of House, Senate *[MENA]* 16

Official Comments on Meetings *[MENA]* 16
Egypt's Mubarak Gives Interviews 17
With CNN *[MENA]* 17
With REUTER *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Further on REUTER Interview *[MENA]* 18
With THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR *[MENA]* 19
Quray', Christopher, Peres Meet in Washington *[Jericho VOP]* 19
'Arafat Says Palestinian State 'Soon' *[MENA]* 19
'Arafat's Washington Activities Reported *[Jericho VOP]* 20

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algiers City Center 'Rocked by Violent Explosion' *[AFP]* 21
Gas Explosion Kills 1, Injures 11 *[Algiers Radio]* 21
'Arafat Arrives for Meeting With Zeroual 21
Interviewed on Peace Process *[Algiers TV]* 21
Briefs Zeroual on Taba Talks *[Algiers Radio]* 21
Comments on Meeting With Zeroual *[Algiers Radio]* 21
Concludes Brief Visit *[Algiers Radio]* 22
Armed Group Kills 18 in Bus Attack in Laghouat *[Algiers Radio]* 22
Security Services Kill 30 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 22

Egypt

U.S. Jury Finds Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Guilty' *[MENA]* 22
Musa Interviewed on Palestinian-Israeli Agreement *[MENA]* 23

Libya

Western Sources Cited on Bid To Kill al-Qadhdhafi *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 29 Sep]* . 23

Morocco

'Arafat Meets King, Comments on Taba Agreement *[Rabat TV]* 23
Loan Agreement Signed With Kuwaiti Development Fund *[Rabat TV]* 24

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Egypt, Protests, al-Turabi *[AL-SHA'B 22 Sep]* 24
Opposition Reports 'Huge' Demonstrations *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* 25
Journalists Arrested for 'Masterminding' Riots *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* .. 25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Government Releases 43 'Political Prisoners' *[AFP]* 26

Kuwait

Iraq Reportedly Concentrating Forces in South 26
Minister Expresses Concern *[Kuwait Radio]* 26
Army State of Alert Denied *[MENA]* 26
Army Said To Cancel Leave *[MENA]* 27

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Welcomes Palestinian-Israeli Accord *[SPA]* 27

Kingdom Grants $100 Million to Palestinians *[SPA]* 27
Joint Military Committee Meeting Held With Yemen *[SPA]* 28

Yemen

'Fundamentalists,' Security Forces Clash *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Sep]* 28
Algerian, Others Arrested After Clash *[Sanaa Radio]* 28

IRAQ

Official Denies Troop Buildup at Kuwait Border *[INA]* 30
Opposition Radio: Guards Shoot at Citizens *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 30
'Reliable Sources': Security Officers Liquidated *[Voice of the People]* 30
Time Bomb Reportedly Found at Baghdad Hotel *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 30
Government Claims Allies Used Chemical Warfare *[ABRAR 23 Sep]* 30
UN's Ekeus Notes 'New Information' on Arsenal *[AFP]* 31
Committee on Missing Kuwaitis Signs Minutes *[Baghdad TV]* 31
AL-HAWRAH Urges Dialogue With U.S. *[INA]* 31
Saddam Confers With Turkish Parliament Official *[INA]* 32
Turkish Official on Sanctions Issue *[INA]* 32
Foreign Minister Meets Turkish Counterpart in U.S. *[INA]* 33
Kurd Figure Signs Agreement With Iranian Group *[Voice of the People]* 33
Kurd Group Studies New U.S. Plan for Peace *[Voice of the People]* 33
Kurd Forces Reportedly Execute 3 From Rival Group *[Voice of the People]* 33

ISRAEL

Rabin Attacks U.S. Jewish 'Circles' Over Lobbying *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Rabin Said To View Bosnia-Like Solution for Territories *[Jerusalem TV]* 34
Rabin Returns From U.S., To View Prisoner Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Weizman Defers Prisoner Decision; Rabin Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Likud: Rabin Preparing Public To Give Up Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Peres Comments Further on Accord Implementation *[MA'ARIV 1 Oct]* 35
Paper: Clinton Did Not Earn Credit for Oslo Accord *[HA'ARETZ 29 Sep]* 36
Likud To Submit Bill on Law for Jordan Valley *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Settlers Hurl Stones at Arabs, Police in Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Territories Closure Until 5 Oct; Exceptions Allowed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Closure May Be Prolonged; Islamic Jihad Attack Feared *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Police, IDF Step Up Alert Due to Expected Attacks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Official Study Sees 'Stalemate' in Syria Talks *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Sep]* 37
PA Urged To Allow Independent Autopsy of U.S. Citizen *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Court Rejects Hijacker's Appeal for Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Egypt Not To Participate in Jerusalem Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Jew Stabbed in Jerusalem's Old City *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Poll Gives Netanyahu Victory Over Rabin *[Jerusalem TV]* 39
U.S. Decision on Supercomputer Restrictions Hailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39

JORDAN

Prince Hasan on Influence of Peace With Israel *[Amman Radio]* 40
King Reportedly To Visit Israel Before Economic Summit *[AL-MASHRIQ 1 Oct]* 40
Opposition Intensifies Campaign Against Treaty *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Sep]* 40
Opposition Parties Urge Efforts Against Peace Accord *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Oct]* 41
Amman's Influence at Taba Negotiations Highlighted *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Sep]* 42

LEBANON

Fadlallah, Islamic Preachers Reject Taba Accord *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44

Minister Insists on Comprehensive Peace Accord *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Syrian Official Stresses U.S. Peace Stance *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Israel Reportedly Confiscates Maronite Land *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Government To Boycott Meeting *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Al-Hariri Affirms Government To Resign 24 Nov *[Beirut Radio]* 45

SYRIA

'Palestine Broadcast' Comments on Taba Accord *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Obstacles to Implementation of Peace Accord Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Opposition to Oslo-2 Agreement Noted *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Commentary Discourages 'Partial' Agreements *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Defense Minister: Oslo-2 Accord 'Surrender' *[Damascus TV]* 48
Radio Cites Rabin: 'Arafat 'May Be a Jew' *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Amman Anti-Normalization Conference Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 49
U.S. Secretary of State To Meet Foreign Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Stronger U.S. Role Urged in Influencing Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Discusses Peace Efforts With UN Envoy *[Kabul Radio]* 52
Dostam Movement Rejects Government Offer of Talks *[Tehran International]* 52
Rabbani Condemns Taleban, Sees Shari'ah as Answer *[Kabul Radio]* 52
Taleban Reportedly Prepared To Attack Kabul *[AFP]* 53
Jihadi Leader Reportedly Assassinated in Faryab *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Pakistan Circles Said Seeking 'Puppet Government' *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Pakistan Repairs Taleban's Telephone System *[Tehran Radio]* 54

India

Rao's View of 'First' Regional Arms Race Reported *[London THE TIMES 2 Oct]* 54
Desire for Peace With Pakistan Conveyed to UN *[Delhi Radio]* 55
World Body Urged To Condemn Pakistan 'Terrorism' *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Minister Addresses Trade at 'Group of 77' Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 56
New Mediators To Negotiate for Kashmir Hostages *[AFP]* 56
JKLF Rebels Said in Control of 'Holiest' Mosque *[AFP]* 56
Ruling Bharatiya Janata Party Splits in Gujarat *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Radio Reports on BJP Split *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Radio Reports on Gujarat Developments *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Article Addresses Future Elections, Mandir-Masjid *[AJ 31 Aug]* 58

Iran

China Reportedly Cancels Nuclear Project Deal *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Sep]* 59
Spokesman Denies Disruption *[IRNA]* 59
PRC Official: 'No Reason' To Stop Nuclear Deal *[IRNA]* 60
Further on Chinese Stand *[Tehran Radio]* 60
U.S. Remarks on Tehran-Chinese Nuclear Ties Viewed 60
Radio Views 'U.S. False Propaganda' *[Tehran International]* 60
TV Views Christopher's 'Madness' *[Tehran TV]* 61
Radio Addresses 'Backfired' Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Spokesman Comments on Nuclear Nonproliferation *[IRNA]* 62
U.S. Urged To Pressure Israel Over Hijacker *[TEHRAN TIMES 21 Sep]* 63

Official: Israeli Attack Would Face 'Stunning Blow' *[AFP]* 63
Radio: 'Arafat-Israel Accord May Extend Intifadah *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Radio Views Syria's Reluctance in Peace Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Rafsanjani Addresses International Tehran Trade Fair *[Tehran TV]* 64
Yazdi Delivers 'Second' Friday Prayers Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 65

Pakistan

Official Cited on Accepting U.S. Kashmir Mediation *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Government Said Establishing U.S. Base in North *[THE NEWS 26 Sep]* 67
Bhutto Addresses U.S. Ties, Kashmir, Afghanistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Official Comments on Islamabad Support for Kabul *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Iranian Envoy Supports UN Efforts in Afghanistan *[IRNA]* 69
'Consensus' Reported in Islamabad-Tehran Talks *[THE MUSLIM 26 Sep]* 69
India Said Cause of 'Instability' in Afghanistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Afghan Party Welcomes Expulsion of Kabul Diplomats *[Islamabad Radio]* 70

Sri Lanka

Rebel 'Strike' Reportedly Kills 22 Policeman *[Colombo International]* 70
Government Reportedly Launches 'Fresh Offensive' *[AFP]* 71
Further on 'Major Offensive' *[AFP]* 71

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Expelled Palestinians Continues

'Large Numbers' Said Leaving Libya

JN2909173695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1717 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just heard that Libya today announced that Palestinians residing in the country are leaving in large numbers in accordance with an order by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi so that they might return to Palestine, according to the Libyan news agency.

The chairman of the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] today asked Libya and other Middle East countries to find a quick solution to the human rights problems resulting from the expulsions of Palestinian from Libya and asked that these states show sympathy in dealing with this problem.

The UNHCR said that 32 Palestinians, including many children, are stranded in the al-Sallum area between Libya and Egypt and that 36 others are waiting in Rafah town — not far from the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip — and do not know where to go.

According to the UNHCR, information from Libya indicates that 1,500 Palestinians were transferred from their residences to a number of camps in the Tubruq area, 150 km from the Egyptian border.

Envoy: Libya To Expel up to 5,000 More

NC0110101095 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 1 (AFP) — Libya is preparing to expel up to 5,000 Palestinians by land, sea and air over the next week, a Libyan diplomat here said on Sunday [1 October].

"The Committee for the Return of Palestinians is reserving boats and aeroplanes to transport the Palestinians from Tripoli and Banghazi and Tubruq to Lebanon and elsewhere," the diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP. "Others will go by land" to the Egyptian border, the diplomat said, adding, that "1,500 to 5,000 people will leave within the week."

The diplomat underlined that the "Return Committee" was "made up completely of Palestinians who have lived in Libya for at least 15 years."

Tripoli has maintained that its Palestinian residents were leaving of their own free will, a claim the PLO has called "a lie". "They have set up a commission of members of the Libyan security force to throw out the Palestinians," the PLO's representative to the Arab League in Cairo, Muhammad Subayh, said.

More than 580 Palestinians arrived in no man's land between Egypt and Libya on Saturday, where Libya has set up some 170 tents to house them, officials at the Egyptian border post of al-Sallum said.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has ordered the expulsion of all 30,000 Palestinians in his country in an attempt to show up the "failure" of Israeli-PLO accords to create a valid Palestinian homeland, Libyan officials have said.

At least 5,000 Palestinians have been expelled across the Egyptian border since Tripoli stepped up its campaign at the beginning of September.

Radio Reports Departures Continue

LD2909183695 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when quitters continue their sell out of the land and the Palestinian cause and sign imposed agreements for further surrender to the enemy, the Palestinian masses living in the Great Jamahiriyah — these masses are against agreements of surrender and are committed to the principle of total liberation of Palestine and to their right to their land and to their repatriation — reacted today by initiating the implementation of their decision, which was taken at yesterday's rally in Tripoli, to return to Palestine by starting to leave the Great Jamahiriyah this morning.

Thus, a group of Palestinian families began their journey back to Palestine in compliance with the speech made by the brother leader of the revolution on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution.

The Palestinian brethren reiterated in statements to JANA before their departure for their homeland that the brother leader of the revolution's invitation [to go back] was actually the embodiment of the aspiration of the sons of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, Palestine, and to reaffirm their historic right which the West and the Israelis have been trying to usurp from them through the signing of imposed documents of capitulation.

The Palestinians lauded, in their statements, the firm and courageous stances taken by the brother leader of the revolution to support the Palestinian cause and, at the same time, praised the good hospitality and the brotherly treatment accorded to them by all Libyans during their stay in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Moreover, the Palestinian brethren affirmed that there was no other option to the decision to return home and that they have begun to take tangible steps to implement it despite all the difficulties in order to consecrate the

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Palestinian will and the pan-Arab duty to the Palestinian cause. They insisted, however, that the decision to return is the decision of the sons of the Palestinian people who reject capitulation, sycophancy, and homelessness.

Furthermore, they urged all Palestinians, wherever they might be in world, to return to Palestine and expose the conspiracy being hatched against the Palestinian people. This conspiracy is aiming at keeping the Palestinian people out of its land and consecrating its occupation by the Israeli enemy.

Palestinians Arrive at Egyptian Border

LD3009195595 Tripoli JANA in English
1850 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amsa'ad, al-Fatih [Spetember] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A group of Palestinian families arrived in Amsa'ad [on the Egyptian border] on their way back to Palestine in implementation of the decision taken by the Palestinian masses taken in their people's congress held last Thursday [28 September] in which they decided to return to (?Palestine in response) to the speech of the leader of the revolutions [words indistinct] 26th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution.

The secretariat of the basic people's congress at Amsa'ad provided all necessary facilities and means for the residence of the families while they await permission from Arab governments to continue their journey to Palestine.

In press statement on their arrival in Amsa'ad, the Palestinian families expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Great Jamahiriyah for its kind hospitality und good treatment enjoyed by them during their residence in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Palestinians declared to the world that the decision of their return was taken freely in accordance with the decision of return to their homes and families which is solely a Palestinian decision and comes from the total belief in their right to return to Palestine.

Over 100 More Arrive at Border

NC0110191195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1850 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sallum, 1 Oct (MENA)— Some 106 Palestinian families expelled by Libya arrived at the no-man's-land on the Libyan-Egyptian border today. The families joined 300 Palestinians who have been stranded in the area for over two weeks. About 120 tents have been pitched in the area to shelter the families.

In Cairo, a source at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said the society will send tents and food to the expellees.

'Return' Committee Sends Memo to UN

LD2909192595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1836 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 29 Sep — The higher committee for the return to Palestine has addressed a memorandum to the secretary general of the United Nations in which it underlined that while getting ready to return to its land, Palestine, it relies in this return, on the laws and conventions that support human rights and the dignity of mankind.

Here is the text of the memorandum:

The secretary general of the United Nations, New York:

The Palestinian Arab masses in the Great Jamahiriyah, while getting ready to return voluntarily and by their own choice to their lands, homes, and possessions in Palestine, relying on more than 20 UN resolutions, confirm that they are returning to Palestine on the basis of all the international laws and conventions that support human rights and man's dignity.

The Palestinian Arab masses in and outside the Great Jamahiriyah are resolved to return to Palestine whatever the sacrifices and no matter how arduous is the passage.

Secretary general of the United Nations:

The Palestinian Arab masses, while they address you about their right to return to their homeland which was usurped unjustly and through aggression, would like to confirm a number of facts:

1: Any concession or compromise or agreement with our enemy who occupies our land and who has stolen our properties and killed our sons is null and void because it is not supported by international legitimacy nor the fundamental principles of human rights.

2: The millions of Palestinians who are still evicted from their land and continue to live outside Palestine are committed to their rights to their land and homeland.

3: The slipping of the United Nations and some states which claim that they protect human rights and the stability of security and peace into marginal and fabricated solutions because the latter serve their interests and satisfy their lackeys is nonsense, fabrication, and deception, and subjects international peace to danger.

4: The Palestinian masses have total confidence in the Great Jamahiriyah and its pan-Arab policies, and

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therefore we moving toward the mass return to Palestine as a national choice to which there is no alternative.

5: We strongly condemn all the anti-Great Jamahiriyah lies and fabrications, reaffirming that we are moving toward our homeland with total freedom and according to our own free will, thanking the Jahamiriyah for its hospitality and authentic Arab brotherhood.

6. It is neither right, nor just for the Caspian, Falasha, and European Jews, who used to live in their homelands, to live on our land while we, the rightful people to our homeland, live homeless and refugees in tents.

The UN secretary general: It was not a noble stance. To what extent would your siding with the rights and dignity of human beings have been if you had asked our brothers, the heads of the Arab states, to grant us the right of passage to Palestine? We are confident that you would side with right, justice, and freedom to support the decent return of the Palestinians to their land.

[Signed] "The higher committee for the return to Palestine"

Murzuq Palestinians Support Return

LD0110225595 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian masses of Murzuq have reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of the total liberation of the Palestinian Arab land. In a message to the brother leader of the revolution, these masses confirmed their absolute support to the statements made by the brother leader of the revolution in the speech he delivered on the 26th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution. They also said that they were waiting for the day of their return to Palestine to rid it of its usurpers and liberate it. They denounced those who were trying to prevent the Palestinian masses from returning to Palestine.

UNHCR Calls on Libya To Stop Expulsions

JN0110101595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations called on the Libyan authorities today to stop deporting Palestinians working in Libya. Sawaka Okata, head of UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR], urged Libya to adhere to human rights and principles.

Libyan President Colonel al-Qadhdhafi presided over a meeting of the Libyan leadership, during which he decided to continue to deport Palestinians.

At the moment, 1,500 Palestinians are in Tubruq waiting to be deported. There are also 36 Palestinians at the Rafah crossing and 32 at the Libyan-Egyptian border.

'Arafat Calls Palestinians' Expulsion 'Tragedy'

NC0110193695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Mauritania asked Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Nouakchott today about the Palestinians expelled from Libya.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Regarding the Palestinians' deportation from Libya, there is talk that you have asked Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to mediate...

['Arafat, interrupting] President Mubarak, too.

[Correspondent] How do you view this issue?

['Arafat] Regrettably, I was surprised. This is a measure we did not imagine President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi would carry out. Are the Palestinians' suffering, problems, and hardships not enough, that this decision to expel about 47,000 Palestinians from Libya should come? Of what are they guilty? Is this Arab brotherhood? Is this pan-Arabism?

[Correspondent] How do you envisage a solution to the Palestinians' tragedy? A solution to the tragedy of the Palestinians' deportation from Libya?

['Arafat] A difficult problem, no doubt.

[Correspondent] (? Will they settle) in Lebanon or...

['Arafat, interrupting] It is a truly difficult problem. It is another tragedy for the Palestinian people. [end recording]

'Arafat Calls on Others To Intervene

NC0210064195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, the Palestine National Council secretary general and Palestine's permanent envoy to the Arab League, stated that intensive diplomatic efforts are under way to stop the deportation of Palestinians from Libya.

In statements to AL-AHRAM published today he said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has asked President Husni Mubarak to intervene to stop this tragedy and also asked Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and the Arab League secretary general to intervene. But Subayh noted that no definite results have been achieved yet except

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what we hea about tents being erected for the Palestinians.

He added: The reports we have received indicate that over 500 Palestinians have arrived in the border area between Egypt and Libya and have become stateless.

The Palestinian official denied that these Palestinians were deported voluntarily and also denied reports published by the French paper LE MONDE yesterday that said: "With this step Libya wanted to provide proof of the failure of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and to show that it was no coincidence that the decision to deport them was made at a popular conference in Tripoli on 28 September— the same day as the signing of the Taba agreement in Washington."

Subyah said: "Libya's insistence on deporting the Palestinians from its territory harms the Arab situation, the Arab reputation in, and Libya itself and will not help solve the Libyan crisis."

Egyptians, Libyans Argue Over Palestinians

NC3009182595 Paris AFP in English
1703 GMT 30 Sep 95

[By Lawrence Chabert]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Sept 30 (AFP) — More than 280 Palestinians arrived in no man's land between Egypt and Libya on Saturday [30 September], the first of 1,500 expected to be expelled by Tripoli within the coming days, security officials said here.

Another 300 Palestinians were expected aboard six buses coming from Tobruq, Libya, 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the border, the officials added.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has ordered the expulsion of all 30,000 Palestinians in his country in an attempt to show up the "failure" of Israeli-PLO accords to create a valid Palestinian homeland.

An official at Egypt's al-Sallum border post told AFP that the expelled Palestinians entered the international zone (between the borders) without papers and many had no personal belongings.

"We expect a total of 1,500 to arrived in the next four or five days," he said.

Libya has set up 170 tents to house the Palestinians in the no man's land, where 38 others have been stranded for more than a month after Egypt refused them entry because their papers were not in order.

However, dozens of other expelled Palestinians holding valid documents crossed the border into Egypt on Saturday.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 Palestinians have already left since al- Qadhdhafi announced in a speech on September 1 that he wanted them out.

Tripoli has insisted that the Palestinians had decided themselves to return to their homeland after holding a special congress in the capital on Thursday.

The official news agency JANA said Saturday that the latest deportees had "published a statement paying tribute to Colonel al- Qadhdhafi for his revolutionary sense which allowed him to understand the seriousness of the plot against the Palestinian people."

"This plot is aimed at forcing Palestinians into exile and to permanently stay in their countries of reception," it said.

However, the Palestinian self-rule authority condemned both Libya and Israel over the plight of those stranded on Egypt's borders.

"The decision of Libya to expel the Palestinians and the refusal of Israel to let them return to their country have been the cause of intolerable suffering," said Palestinian Labour Minister Samir Ghawshah.

He said the self-rule authority had stepped up international contacts to try to reverse Libya's decision to expel its Palestinian community.

The Egyptian official at al-Sallum accused authorities from the Libyan border post of Musa'id of treating the three kilometer-wide (two miles) international zone "like Libyan land" and "treating Egyptian officials badly ."

The Libyans warned off Egyptian officials from the zone, saying: "You can't come here, this is Libyan land," he said.

"Libya is testing Egypt to see what it will do," the official added.

Egypt has allowed entry only to Palestinians assured of transiting directly to the Gaza Strip or Jordan and has refused to allow UN relief aid to the stranded, saying they were a Libyan problem.

A Palestinian who arrived at al-Sallum on Saturday said the Libyan Red Crescent has begun providing medical care, food and water and toilet facilities to Palestinians stranded in no man's land.

Egypt increased security and the number of customs officials at al-Sallum on Saturday to deal with the expected wave of expulsions and "to prevent potential incidents," another border official said.

Two hundred Palestinians who crossed the border on Friday waved Palestinian flags and chanted slogans as

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they passed through Musa'id then stopped when they reached al-Sallum, he said.

Palestinian Affairs

Family Says U.S. Palestinian 'Tortured to Death'

TA2909140895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A family from the Ramallah District village of 'Ayn Yabrud claims that a relative of theirs was tortured to death in Jibril al-Rujub's interrogation facilities in Jericho.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the man is 35-year-old 'Azzam Muslih, a Palestinian with U.S. nationality. He was taken to the Palestinian Security Service facilities in Jericho for interrogation on 27 September, and this morning his body was brought back to his family by al-Rujub's men. His relatives maintain that he was a healthy man, and that there were marks of violence on his body.

Security Official Denies Report

JN2909203495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah 'Allun, Public Relations officer of the Preventive Security Apparatus, denied that the apparatus has anything to do with the death of citizen 'Azzam 'Abd-al-Rahim Muslih, a resident of the village of 'Ayn Yabrud.

'Allun asserted that citizen Muslih was not detained by the apparatus. Nor was he interrogated or summoned by the apparatus, 'Allun maintained.

'Arafat Announces Jerusalem as Constituency

JN0210083295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat said on Sunday [1 October] that Jerusalem will be among constituencies electing a Palestinian council, Algeria's state-run radio reported.

"I announce to you the good news that Jerusalem is one among the Palestinian election constituencies," Mr. 'Arafat was reported as saying.

The election of a 82-member Palestinian council in the West Bank and Gaza is one of the main provisions of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement signed on Thursday [28 September] at the White House in Washington.

An Israeli version of the accord initialed in Taba on Sept. 24 states that there will be "various constituencies set out in the Palestinian election law" to be passed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The accord further stipulates the constituencies "shall be consistent with the provisions of this agreement," but it was not immediately clear whether the Israeli government regarded this as tantamount to agreeing to a Jerusalem constituency,

PLO negotiators had previously said East Jerusalem Palestinians would be allowed to vote in the elections at public buildings in the city, but had not referred to a Jerusalem constituency as such.

Mr. 'Arafat held talks with the Algerian President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers on Sunday over his deal with Israel expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, Algerian radio said.

Israel's supreme court meanwhile ordered a group of Palestinian women prisoners held for at least another 24 hours despite the government's agreement to release them as part of the accord with the PLO.

As part of the autonomy agreement signed in Washington, Israel agreed to release 2,000 of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners it holds, as well as all 28 women prisoners.

But right-wing critics have argued that some of the women were convicted of killings, while the agreement also states that detainees imprisoned for causing death will not be released.

In five of the cases—in which the accused are residents of East Jerusalem and therefore not subject of military courts—the government is asking President 'Ezer Weizman to issue a pardon. Mr. Weizman says he has not yet decided whether to comply.

After two attorneys appealed against a release of the women, the supreme court ordered them held pending a debate to begin Monday.

The attorneys argued Mr. Weizman should in any case be disqualified from issuing a group amnesty since his authority is limited to individual cases.

It is not known when the government intended to release the women, officials said some prisoners would be released this week.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said meanwhile Israel would start withdrawing troops and shutting down the offices of its military government in the West Bank this month.

The impending transfer of power set off protests among Jewish settlers in the Jordan Valley, who claimed they were being abandoned.

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Mr. Peres, speaking to the Associated Press, said the troop withdrawal from the West Bank would probably begin "in several weeks."

Mr. Peres said the goal was to have troops out of West Bank towns and villages by the end of the year, except for Hebron, where a complicated arrangement that leaves Israeli troops in the city to protect Jewish settlers is being worked out.

"Hebron will take six months," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres, in the United States for last Thursday's White House signing of the Israel-PLO agreement, said Israel would also shut down the 12 offices of its military government in the West Bank.

Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the military government, said the first four offices would be closed next week, and the others would be closed within six months.

Palestinian sources said the Israelis and Palestinians argued until the last minute before the signing over a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank. In the end, the Israelis agreed to begin the pullout 10 days after the signing, instead of six months afterwards.

The army is expected to withdraw first from the city of Janin in the northern West Bank and surrounding villages, followed by Nabulus, Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, then Ramallah and Bethlehem and finally Hebron.

The transfer of power in cities and villages will give the Palestinians control over slightly less than a third of the West Bank.

The Israel-PLO agreement faces stiff opposition from Jewish settlers in the West Bank. About 200 settlers burned tires and blocked traffic Sunday morning on the bypass road around Jericho and at an army checkpoint before the King Husayn Bridge to Jordan. Eighteen protesters were detained.

The settlers said they were protesting Israel's plans to remove army roadblocks and expand the area of Palestinian self-rule around Jericho.

"They lied to us," David Elhiani, head of the Jordan Valley settlers' council, told Israel Radio. "The Jordan Valley is no longer the security strip of the nation. They are ceding the Jordan Valley.

"We will not allow Palestinian police into the Jordan Valley. we will fight with everything we have."

Several hundred travelers were delayed and traffic across the bridge stopped for most of the morning until Israeli police dragged settlers away from the main gate leading to the bridge just outside Jericho.

A Reuters photographer saw police detain between 10 and 12 demonstrators. Israeli army radio said most were released later.

The settlers began the protest by blocking a main road to Jerusalem.

They then marched towards the bridge, vowing to remain at an entrance road all day.

Palestinian police Major Fawzi 'Awdah, in charge of West Bank crossing points for the Palestinian self-rule authority, called the protest a violation of Palestinian rights of passage.

"They cause a lot of problems for our Palestinian citizens, especially the ones who are travelling to Jordan," he told Reuters.

An Arab taxi driver waiting near the bridge said: "The demonstrators are harming the movement from Jordan. Why are they letting them do that?"

Israel's parliament is scheduled to debate the Israel-PLO agreement this Thursday [5 October]. Mr. Peres said he expects it to be approved.

Mr. Dror, the military government spokesman, said Israeli and Palestinian officials were to meet Sunday to work out the details of the transfer of authority.

The four offices that will be closed next week are in Salfit, near the city of Nabulus; Kharbata, near Ramallah; Yatta, near Hebron; and Qabatiyah, near Janin.

While the Palestinians made strides towards greater self-rule, the limits of that independence were clear Sunday, when Israel extended the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip through Oct. 5—after the Yom Kippur holiday.

The Gaza Strip has been sealed since Sept. 24 and the West Bank since Wednesday. The closure, which strangles a struggling Palestinian economy highly dependent on jobs in Israel, had been scheduled to end on Sunday.

Israel fears attacks by militants opposed to the Israel-PLO peace process.

The supreme court meanwhile ordered Israeli authorities to justify a decision to not prosecute two interrogators who shook a Palestinian detainee to death, Israel Radio said.

'Abd al-Samad Hurayzat, 29 died during Shin Bet interrogation in April, and a pathologist who attended his autopsy said he was tortured to death. Israeli media reported his head was banged against a wall and he was left unconscious in an isolation cell.

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After an appeal by a lobby called the Committee Against Torture, the supreme court ordered the justice ministry and Shin Bet to explain within 45 days why the interrogators and their commanders should not be prosecuted in a criminal court for Hurayzat's death.

The justice ministry had been satisfied by their censure in an internal Shin Bet disciplinary court, Israel Radio said.

The Shin Bet had hoped Hariyzat would lead them to members of the militant group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Gaza Opposition, Hebron Mayor React to Accord

TA2909114895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 95 p A7

[Report by Dani Rubinstein]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "As a Palestinian, I support the agreement; as a Hebronite, I reject it." This statement was made yesterday by Khalid 'Usaylah, member of the Hebron City Council and a local Fatah leader. This statement seems to express the feelings of the majority of Hebron residents. Hebron was the only West Bank city to stage a protest strike against the accord. The strike was observed in full and accompanied by a series of minor clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

Yesterday morning, Hebron Mayor Mustafah al-Natshah tried to downplay the reaction of the city residents. According to him, the residents responded to the call to stage a strike only because they are very bitter about the fact that the agreement has left the Jewish settlers in the heart of town. Al-Natshah said that 'Arafat had invited him to join the Palestinian delegation to Washington, but that he had decided to stay in the city because of the special situation prevailing in it. Asked for his opinion on whether the agreement can be implemented, he said: "Strange as this may sound, I have not yet seen the maps marking our borders with the settlers. I hear the neighbors of the settlers complaining day and night, and I believe the agreement stands some chance of succeeding only if the main road passing near the settlers' residence is reopened for the Arabs."

Al-Natshah added that he still has confidence in 'Arafat who, although he has failed on the issue of Hebron, has made an effort to distance the settlers from the city.

Hatim Qafishah, a shoe factory owner and the most prominent Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in Hebron, who had been deported to Lebanon, said that although the agreement may win international support, Hebron can and must say no to the agreement because it is a major plot against it. According to him, there are several options with which to counter the agreement, primarily the armed struggle that will continue. "'Arafat will not be able to oppress Hamas in Hebron the way he did in Gaza, because in every family here there is at least one Hamas supporter who will keep up the resistance." Qafishah added: "Injustice cannot be accepted, whether you are weak or strong." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 29 September publishes on page 4 a report by Eli Bohadana, adding: "'There is no agreement with the Zionist conqueror, and there never will be until he gets out of Palestine. Until that day, the agreement will only exist on paper.' These remarks were made yesterday by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, Islamic Jihad leader in the Gaza Strip, in a conversation with his associates. This is the first reaction by the rejectionist fronts in the Gaza Strip to the signing of the Oslo B accord.

["'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said yesterday that any agreement that fails to mention the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people — namely, a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, removing the settlers and establishing a Palestinian state — will only bring unrest to the territories. 'There will never be peace this way,' al-Faluji said.

["Nihad Abu-Ghawsh, a Gaza leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said yesterday that, according to the agreement, the territories are still occupied by Israel and that the IDF redeployment continues legitimizing the settlements. Abu-Ghawsh said that the settlements, mainly the one in Hebron, are 'time bombs.'"]

Islamic Figure Says Accord Ignores Basic Issues

JN2909150895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Commentary by 'Imad al-Faluji, Gaza Islamic figure and chief editor of AL-WATAN newspaper; from the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Undoubtedly, the Washington agreement is an extension of the first Oslo agreement, and, consequently, one of its results. We believe this agreement does not meet Palestinian aspirations. It has ignored many substantive issues, such as the detainees, settlements and settlers, water, Jerusalem, and many other issues. The Palestinian negotiator should not have made any concessions on such issues. Actually, the agreement that was signed yesterday does not meet the minimum aspirations of the Palestinian people, especially since it disregards sensitive and important issues which directly affect the Palestinian people. I do

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not believe that there will be any peace or stability as long as the Israeli army is still on Palestinian soil, as long as the settlements are still there, and as long as the detainees are still in the enemy prisons. These are very sensitive issues and cannot be ignored or forgotten.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Blames U.S. for Taba Accord

NC3009083295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has stated that the Taba accord is part of the U.S. program to control the region. He indicated that after ensuring that the accord is implemented, the United States will then immediately act to discipline the forces opposed to the U.S. plan.

Jibril said the 'Arafatist-Zionist deal is very dangerous; it requires mammoth efforts to derail it, not only by the Palestinian rejectionist forces but also by the Arab and Islamic peoples and all the forces hostile to U.S. hegemony over the region.

Jibril emphasized that the confrontation of and the jihad operations against the Zionist enemy will continue. 'Arafat will not be able to prevent housewives from using kitchen knives against the usurpers.

PFLP-GC Sends 'Arafat Congratulatory Cable

JN3009150795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a congratulatory cable from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Higher Command [al-hay'ah al- qiyadiyah al-'ulya] on the occasion of signing the Palestinian- Israeli agreement.

The front hoped the agreement will be a step toward establishing an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Higher Command urged sons of our people to rally behind the historic leadership of President 'Arafat, and hailed the Palestinian negotiating delegation and its firm and serious position toward the subject of prisoners and the demand to free them.

PFLP-GC Cadres Reportedly Join Splinter Group

JN3009151395 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic 2 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] is currently experiencing a tempest that caused a new split in its ranks. Several PFLP-GC cadres in Jordan have joined the wing of Mustafa Khumayyis, who broke with the PFLP-GC last year and declared allegiance to the Palestinian Authority.

Prisoner Release Delayed by 'Technical Difficulties'

TA2909140295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, head of the Palestinian prisoners committee, says that the release of the security prisoners will commence only toward the end of next week. 'Abd-al-Raziq told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the delay in the release stems mainly from technical difficulties.

Official Sees 'Procrastination'

JN2909212695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, member of the negotiating team on prisoners, stated that contacts will be held with the Israeli side to expedite the release of male and female prisoners in accordance with the provisions of the Palestinian- Israeli accord.

Commenting on reports that the Israeli Knesset must endorse the accord before the prisoners can be released, Abu-Zayidah explained that this is an Israeli procrastination aimed at appeasing the extremist Israeli right wing. He stressed the need not to link the release of the prisoners to the Knesset's endorsement of the accord.

Israeli sources said today that Palestinian-Israeli action committees will embark on an effort to coordinate the redeployment of the occupation troops from the perimeters of the city of Janin, Janin camp, and four adjacent villages, including Qabatiyah.

The sources added that the redeployment will begin in mid- November, and that there are no plans to postpone it.

Radio Reports U.S. Pledge of $50 Million in Aid

JN3009200395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration today announced it will extend $50 million in aid to the National Authority. A U.S. Administration official said this amount will be earmarked for improving the quality of water in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The U.S. Secretary of State urged donor states to fulfill their pledges after the signing of the second part of the peace agreement.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

King Husayn Addresses Signing Ceremony

JN2809183695 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1723 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Address by King Husayn of Jordan at the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement at the White House in Washington, D.C. — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Clinton, Prime Minister Rabin, My Brother President Mubarak, President 'Arafat, and Dear Friends: What we are meeting here today to witness is one about responsibility, moral courage, physical courage, maturity where the interest of people is the driving, motivating force behind leaders and fulfilling their duties to future generations. It is, indeed, a result of a commitment to peace, unwavering. And we have, indeed, witnessed and seen the hours spent and the efforts made and the obstacles surmounted because there is good will and there is total commitment to peace by all those who played their part so far in shaping the comprehensive peace that we all seek in our part of the world.

In addition to all that, I believe, for our Palestinian brethren, and they are the closest to us in the Arab world and we are the closest to them, it is also the fulfillment of a dream they've struggled for years, a chance to contribute their share in shaping their future and to have their word regrading that future and destiny.

I am proud to be a part of this occasion on behalf of the government and the people of Jordan to congratulate you on what you have achieved and to wish you every future success in the times ahead. And to assure you all, President Clinton, all my colleagues, brethren and friends, starting with President Mubarak for Egypt was a pioneer on the path of peace, President 'Arafat, Prime Minister Rabin with his farsightedness and unquestionable moral and physical courage, and all the other wonderful people who have helped, secretary of state and the vision of Shim'on Peres and every one who has — Dennis Ross, so many. We will do everything we can and hopefully we will meet again. And if we don't, hopefully the process will continue beyond this point towards the establishment of the comprehensive peace we seek, giving people the dignity that is their right, the security, the tearing down the barriers of suspicion and hatred and confusion. And I believe that I issue a challenge to any leader in our part of the world, or anywhere else in the world, to demonstrate courage, moral and physical courage, to show what responsibility really means by joining the peace camp for the better future of all the peoples of our region. I hope they won't be wanting. I hope they will be there. And I hope that we will have fulfilled, after all these years of struggle, our responsibilities towards our people and the generations to come, the children of Abraham and their descendants forever.

Thank you very, very much indeed. And I hope that we will, next month, see another major step in our part of the world when the economic summit is convened in Amman with the presence of all who belong to the peace camp to present our area in the context of peace and all our friends from throughout the world, for now we need to build on what we have achieved, a better future for our people so they can see and enjoy what they have been denied for so long.

Mr. President: Thank you once again for your kind invitation and on behalf of all those here from Jordan — my wife, prime minister, my colleagues — we are deeply grateful. And, Mrs. Clinton: At least Prime Minister Rabin and I do not smoke while we are here with you, sir. Thank you very much for great influence in that regard. Thank you so much.

Jordan's King Husayn Meets With President Clinton

Meets Prior to Signing Ceremony

JN2909205995 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 Sep 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king met yesterday before the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord with U.S. President Bill Clinton. His majesty and President Clinton discussed Jordanian-American bilateral relations and the positive outcome of the PLO-Israeli accord on the region's peace process. Answering reporters' questions, the king voiced hope that Iraq would move towards democracy. The king also said Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia are normal.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your majesty, can we ask you about the Iraqi defectors? What your long-term plans are vis-a-vis Saddam Husayn?

[Husayn] I have no long-term plans except a hope and a wish and a genuine desire to see Iraq become a democracy and to see the people free from all the repression and strangulation that they have suffered from, to secure for them respect for human rights in that country, and to see it stable, hopefully a part of the region, an effective part of the region eventually.

[Correspondent] Do you see a breakthrough in your relationship with the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as a result of all of this?

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[Husayn] Our relations with Saudi Arabia are on their way back to normal and have been for a period of time. We are very happy with that. [end recording]

His majesty the king also held a closed-door meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. The King also met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Talks centered on preparations for the Amman economic conference and measures to be taken to make it a success.

Meeting Held Following Day

JN2909214495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn met with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House today. The two leaders held a closed-door meeting, which was followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of senior officials from both sides.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn expressed his appreciation for President Bill Clinton's role and valued his efforts to achieve the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which was signed at the White House yesterday. His majesty also stressed the need for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East as well as the need to continue to exert every possible effort to realize a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region. Moreover, his majesty said that Jordan will make all the arrangements that will contribute to the success of the Amman economic conference. He called on everyone to strive to make this conference a success, for which all the peoples of the region are aspiring. His Majesty King Husayn also expressed to the U.S. president his thanks for the United States' positive position on the tragic situation in Bosnia and for the U.S. Administration's efforts to end this tragedy.

For his part, President Bill Clinton stressed the importance of the Jordanian role in the peace process and his country's appreciation for the Jordanian Armed Forces' role in maintaining security and stability in the region. He also stressed his country's support for the Amman economic conference, noting that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce will represent the United States at this conference. He added that the U.S. Administration will urge the private sector in the United States to make an effective contribution at the conference.

During the meeting, discussion dealt with distinguished relations between the two countries. President Bill Clinton expressed his country's understanding of the Jordanian Armed Forces' needs as well as the need to develop and modernize them in a way that suits the basic historical role they are playing to maintain security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

JN3009190395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with His Excellency Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, in Washington today. They discussed Jordanian-Egyptian relations, the recent developments in the peace process, and the expected positive impact of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the overall peace process in the Middle East. Following the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to journalists.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What was discussed during talks with His Excellency President Hunsi Mubarak?

[Husayn] All issues of possible interest to two brothers who have known each other very well for many years and who have consistently sought to further their nation's interests. God be praised, the relations are brotherly, no more no less.

[Correspondent] How do you view the future of these relations after this meeting?

[Husayn] More understanding and more coordination are needed in coming stages, God willing.

[Correspondent] How do you view the future of peace now that the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has been signed?

[Husayn] I believe that this is a great achievement and a step toward the restoration of the Palestinians' rights on their national soil. It is also a great boost to the peace process.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Regarding the future of the city of Jerusalem? Should this be left only to the Palestinians and the Israelis or should the views of other parties be taken into account?

[Husayn] I have made proposals on this issue more than once, sir. I hope that Jerusalem will be a meeting point between the two parties and a symbol of their peace. As for the holy places, their status must be maintained. Only divine sovereignty must apply to them.

[Correspondent] Did the talks touch on the situation in Iraq?

[Husayn] The talks touched on everything, and the results are all good, thank God. Thank you. [end recording]

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Jordan's King Husayn, Israel's Rabin Interviewed

TA2909185695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Interview with King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Israel television correspondent Eli Nisan in Washington on 29 September following King Husayn's meeting with Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres; from "The Week in 1 Hour" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nisan] Your Majesty, Israel Television's Arabic correspondent. How do you assess the situation in the Middle East in the wake of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Husayn] Personally I am very optimistic and very happy about what has been achieved and realized. I believe that the peace camp as well as the camp of hope for the future are getting stronger, God willing, for everyone.

[Nisan] Will this agreement lead to the future establishment of a confederation between Israel, the Palestinians and ....

[Husayn, interrupting] It is decidedly premature to discuss this issue until the Palestinians can achieve what they want in terms of their right to self-determination and in terms of the democracy that they are talking about and which they hope will turn into a reality. Then, a decision will be made.

[Nisan] After your meeting with Mr. Rabin today, have all the obstacles preventing the implementation of the agreement between Israel and Jordan been removed?

[Husayn] There are no obstacles. All of them are on the verge of being resolved. Only minor things have remained. This is a great achievement and we are cooperating [words indistinct].

[Nisan, in Hebrew] Have all obstacles that impeded the implementation of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord been eliminated?

[Rabin, in Hebrew] There have been no obstacles. The peace between Jordan and Israel is strong, although it needs to be entrenched and developed.

The meeting Peres and I had today with King Husayn, his prime minister, and other ministers addressed mainly the Amman conference. On the bilateral level, we would like, first of all, to ensure that a Jordanian-Israeli trade agreement is signed; it still needs to be completed. Second, we would like, with international elements, to locate concrete projects prior to the Amman conference — if the conference is to serve bilateral and multilateral economic ends. That was the purpose of the meeting, in addition to general matters, of course. I have to go now. Thank you all.

Rabin Welcomes Proposal To Move U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem

TA3009124295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Ya'aqov Ahime'ir video report in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The political events continued in Washington today. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres held meetings with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and U.S. congressmen.

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres concluded their meeting with Senator Robert Dole a short time ago. Mr. Dole proposed moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Mr. Rabin expressed open support today for this idea.

[Rabin, in English] Since 1967, the united Jerusalem is our capital. We welcome the transfer of every embassy of foreign countries to Jerusalem. This was and this is our position.

[Ahime'ir] I asked Rabin whether he supported Dole's bill.

[Rabin, in English] I said we welcome it.

[Ahime'ir] The prime minister earlier met with Jordan's King Husayn, one of Mr. Rabin's last meetings before leaving for New York. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin Explains West Bank Redeployment Schedule

TA2909182495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Israeli correspondents in Washington on 29 September — recorded; italicized words in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] We agreed at the negotiations in Taba — and the accords were amended accordingly — that it is our intention to complete the *redeployment* by the end of December. This refers to roads bypassing Ramallah and Bethlehem.

As for Hebron, we did not commit ourselves to *redeployment* for another six months — namely, it is not to take place before the end of March — because before then we will be unable to complete what I call the Halhul bypass road, which is to supplement the Hebron bypass road. In my view, it is contingent on the completion of the two bypass roads — the Bethlehem and the

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Ramallah bypasses. This was not put in writing, however, and the text does not contain a commitment, except for a reference to our intentions. When we say we intend to do something, we mean to present a target date, but with the understanding that there is a constraint: the commitment I have made to the settlers not to evacuate Ramallah and Bethlehem before an appropriate and safe solution is arranged for their movement.

As for Hebron, they realize that it will not happen for another six months. Therefore, the agreement reached during our meeting at the White House concerning our intention to complete the *redeployment* is accompanied by this written proviso: *with the exception of Hebron.*

Rabin Says U.S. 'To Consider' Pollard Release

TA2909085595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During his meeting with President Clinton, Prime Minister Rabin raised the issue of Jonathan Pollard. He said that in the current atmosphere in which Israel is releasing prisoners, there is room to consider Pollard's release as well:

[Begin Rabin recording] I mentioned the Pollard issue against the backdrop of the prisoner release. I hope, without knowing for a fact, that if there are no delays on our part, perhaps a miracle will happen. I have received no promise or commitment beyond the agreement to consider the matter. My main argument was that since we are releasing prisoners, there is room to consider his release. [end recording]

[The same Qol Yisra'el newsreel includes a recorded interview with Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich by Shlomo Raz on the Pollard issue, in which Rabinovich says: "This is not the first time that the prime minister has raised the Pollard issue, but the fact that he has uncharacteristically agreed to comment on the issue in public indicates that this is perhaps a firm move which looks a little more promising than previous efforts."]

Rabin Criticizes U.S. Jewry on Immigration Issues

TA2909064595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Rabin met with Jewish leaders and criticized them for spending time worrying about the fate of some 450 Jewish settlers in Hebron while dodging the larger issue of immigration to Israel. He said the Jewish community's contribution toward immigrant absorption was only 10 percent of American aid earmarked for the same cause.

Rabin also warned that activities in the American Jewish community against the Israeli Government policy could cross red lines and damage relations between Israel and the United States. His remarks were met by a standing ovation.

Rabin, Peres on Peace, Personal Relations

TA2909200195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ya'aqov Eylon and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen in Washington — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Eylon] Were there points in the course of the difficult and complex negotiations with the Palestinians — which involved concessions and give-and-take — when you disagreed with each other, despite attempts to present a united front?

[Peres] I know it sounds strange to you, but had there not been full cooperation and full trust between the prime minister and myself, there would have been no peace agreement.

[Eylon] I know there was cooperation, but at what point did the prime minister say to you: Not this, we cannot do it?

[Peres] He told me, and I told him. It was a free discussion. We did not fight.

[Rosen] You never raised your voices, never felt that....

[Peres, interrupting] Never, not once did we raise our voices, and nothing was ever leaked. Nothing was ever leaked.

[Rabin] You are surprised. I think you find it simply incomprehensible. Perhaps tales of the past.... [pauses] As it has been recently, Shim'on and I work in full collaboration. We had discussions. Whenever there were problems, we discussed them, and we always reached a mutual decision.

[Peres] And it was always well thought out, not just for the sake of winning an argument.

[Rabin] No, there has been no tension, no argument. [passage omitted]

[Eylon] Mr. Rabin, in your conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton you drew a kind of a parallel between Jonathan Pollard and Israel's release of prisoners on humanitarian grounds. Can you explain this parallel?

[Rabin] Several times in the past I raised the Pollard issue, citing humanitarian and personal reasons. In

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today's conversation I stressed that in our determination to attain a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, we are about to release over 2,000 prisoners in two stages. I think that, in this situation, after Israel has displayed its willingness to do something that is not easy for us — it is not easy for any of us — the United States should think, based on its laws and alternatives, about heeding Israel and U.S. Jewry in the context of Pollard. I received no clear answers, and I am only speaking of the case I made.

[Rosen] Mr. Peres, today we heard the prime minister say that any delay by Israel in the release of female prisoners, of murderers if you will, may hinder Pollard's case.

[Rabin] I never said that. I said that the release of prisoners has implications. I did not say what you claim I did, and I expect you to be more accurate. Do not interpret my remarks.

[Rosen] Mr. Peres, we know that he [President 'Ezer Weizman] is not enthusiastic about pardoning these female prisoners. The prime minister says the matter is anything but easy. What can you tell people, such as the president or others, who find it hard to make a similar decision?

[Peres] The release of female prisoners is definitely a gesture to the Palestinian mentality. For them, women in prison are an anomaly. President Weizman told President Mubarak that he will release all female prisoners. We cannot force the president's hand, of course. We have made our recommendation as a government; we did not duck the issue. We said: If we want to have a new world, a new order, we have to take the other party's needs into consideration.

[Eylon] What will you tell the terror victims, who reject this rationale?

[Peres] Look, they are victims of terror, and this is an attempt to keep us from having more victims of terror; there is sometimes a contradiction between the two. First of all, we listen to them very carefully, we are very understanding of their pain, their protest; we do not belittle it. Yet we have to ask ourselves at some point how to prevent it, how to create a situation in which there will be no more bereaved parents. It will not happen overnight, not in one fell swoop. It is a process which was launched when the PLO left the world of terrorism. There are still many terrorists, however.

[Rosen] Mr. Peres, the prime minister said a few months ago — he was cited as saying so, at least — that he believed the rate of popular support for your moves regarding the agreement with the Palestinians was no higher than 30- 33 percent. Is that still the situation, in your opinion?

[Peres] Both Yitzhaq and I are Ben-Gurion's disciples. Ben- Gurion never heeded public opinion polls. Rather, he tried to show the way. He used to say: I do not know what the people desire, but I do know what is desirable for the people. In our positions, we cannot just please the people, we also have to tell the people what is vital and what is possible.

I would like to divulge a secret that I think is very significant for many people. On the last day of the negotiations, that is on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, when the crisis was at its worst, Yitzhaq and I consulted, and Yitzhaq said: We will stop the negotiations, if necessary; we will not be afraid to do so. This shows that the notion that we were only looking for success was inane. We would have had no qualms about discontinuing the negotiations had it been necessary. We would have given the polls no thought; they are marginal. We cannot work with popularity as the main consideration, because public moods can be fickle, while we are following a path, which — though it is sometimes arduous — is the right and only one. There is simply no alternative.

[Rabin] If I may: We wanted to achieve an agreement; I do not want any misunderstanding about that. Both Shim'on and I did. We did not look for a pretext to stop the talks, but when crucial issues were on the agenda — mainly security — we said that if, despite our earnest desire to achieve an agreement, we could not solve that....[pauses] I would like to stress that we were prepared to take risks, because what mattered to us was to make progress toward peace. [passage omitted]

[Eylon] Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin, there is the Knesset which, contrary to fickle public moods, is a matter of democratic rules, and this agreement, which we have been discussing all this time, may eventually depend on the favors of Knesset Member [MK] Goldfarb.

[Rabin] I do not wish to discuss any individual MK.

[Eylon] Okay, let us discuss the tiny majority the government will have in the Knesset, if it does at all.

[Rabin] I have repeatedly stated that this government will follow the path that it believes in even if it has a majority of one MK. I believe this is the correct path for our goals, that this is the answer, even if we only reap the fruits of peace later. And we have already reaped partial fruits of peace in the economic sphere, in many areas that Israelis perhaps do not link with the peace process.

[Eylon] Then Israelis do not understand?

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[Rabin] I did not say that they do not understand. They do not link the two. Do you think the Israeli economy would have flourished as it has without the combination of peace and our ability to absorb immigrants? Instead of squandering money on settlements in the territories, we are investing it in education, the absorption of immigrants, infrastructure, and in building an economic system. Would we be in this position had we not done that? Would we have received $10 billion in U.S. Government loan guarantees? [Rabin interrupted by announcement of upcoming commercials]

[Rosen] Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres, can you guarantee today that a Palestinian state will not be established in the territories?

[Peres] I believe there is another solution, which we favor and toward which we are striving. I am referring to a Jordanian-Palestinian arrangement. We are against confrontations between the Jordanians and the Palestinians, and we believe that an arrangement between the Jordanians and the Palestinians will allow two things to happen: observing the demilitarization in the areas of Judaea and Samaria from which we will withdraw....[pauses] A Palestinian state involves the danger of a Palestinian army, while a Jordanian-Palestinian arrangement involves the possibility that a non-Israeli army will remain east of the Jordan River.

[Eylon] Is a Palestinian state something you would fight with all your might?

[Peres] Listen, why ask such far-reaching questions? I would fight — I think Yitzhaq and I both would — against any alien army crossing the Jordan River. We must speak plainly, and names have no significance.

[Rosen] If the name does not matter, it can be called a Palestinian state, too. Right?

[Rabin] I suggest we refrain from making such long-term forecasts. What Shim'on said reflects the drift of our thinking and actions. I do not wish to prognosticate, but our trend is a Jordanian-Palestinian composite, with Israel; a composite of three entities. I stress: Our solution lies in separation, with a Jewish state on most of the territory of the British Mandate's Eretz Yisra'el, with Jerusalem as its capital, and the Jordan River as its security border. No annexation of the 2.2 million and the land on which they live. We do want a Palestinian entity to be established, one that will run the lives of the Palestinians separate from us. The intermingling that was caused by settlements set in the heart of the densely populated Palestinian centers in the territories and by the Palestinians having business in Israel owing to the circumstances, created the perfect conditions for terrorism.

[Rosen] What will happen to the settlements, then?

[Rabin] We are dealing with the interim arrangement right now, and we know what our target is: separation between a Palestinian entity — one that runs its own life, that is not run or controlled by us, an independent entity, which is less than a state — and the State of Israel. We do not want any intermingling.

[Eylon] It is what the prime minister of Israel and the State of Israel want, but Yasir 'Arafat may have a different notion. He wants a state.

[Rabin] We will deal with that when we get there. First let us forge a new reality, a reality of separation, a reality in which Palestinians run their own lives in the framework of the interim agreement.

[Eylon] But Binyamin Netanyahu says it will then be too late.

[Peres] We never promised to accept everything Yasir 'Arafat says. Who says we have? Similarly, he is probably not going to accept everything we say. We have to differentiate between rhetoric — even dreams — and reality. What we have been saying is reality. We will not turn Jerusalem into Berlin. We will not partition Jerusalem, will not build a wall inside it. We are convinced, we are of one mind, and we are determined on this issue just as we are determined on the issue of peace.

[Rabin] And what experience does Mr. Netanyahu have? What are his remarks based on? What does he know? Where is the evidence of anything he has done?

[Peres] Look what happened to the prophecies about Gaza.

[Rabin] And about Lebanon.

[Rosen] Before we finish, I would like to return to the issue of past rancor, with your permission. After all, it is not every day that we have the honor of interviewing you together. Mr. Rabin, you have said nasty things about Shim'on Peres for many years.

[Rabin] True.

[Rosen] We will not repeat the remarks; everyone is familiar with them. What happened? Were you wrong, or has Shim'on Peres changed?

[Rabin] I think we both reached the conclusion — I will speak for myself — that whatever happened in the past, now we both have an historic opportunity to generate a reversal in the life of the State of Israel and the Middle East, and that everything else is insignificant. That is what we are preoccupied with, and we are doing it as full partners.

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[Peres] I can add only one thing: Neither Yitzhaq nor I can change the past. We can regret it, but we cannot change it. We can become victims of the past, but instead of being that, we decided that we no longer care about what happened, because it cannot be changed anyway. We decided to devote ourselves to the one major, genuine, serious cause, which has nothing to do with gossip — to peace. I am very proud that we were able to show many of our friends that we can work together, that we can work honestly and seriously, that we can make very difficult decisions. And I think everyone can see the results. [passage omitted]

[Eylon] Who will be the next prime minister?

[Peres] Let us discuss it the next time you have us on your program.

[Rabin] We are not preoccupied with it at the moment. I think we share the advantage of dealing together with things we deem vital for the present and for the future of the state. As for your question, ask it in six months. [passage omitted]

Peres on Accord Implementation, Egyptian POW Issue

TA3009192395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres told Egyptian President Mubarak in Washington that the Israeli Government takes responsibility for the killing of Egyptian POW's. This was revealed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in a meeting with Israeli reporters. The Egyptian president had been looking for a way to resolve the issue, but he did not discuss any details or make specific demands.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will dismantle its Civil Administration buildings in 12 West Bank villages in eight days. He called it the first substantial step in implementing the interim accord. He was speaking to Israeli reporters accompanying him and the prime minister in the United States.

Peres also said that the staged withdrawal from Arab population centers will begin in November in Janin. Mr. Peres told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that overall responsibility for the security and safety of Israelis will remain in Israel's hands, except for the cities, the total area of which is 2.7 percent of the entire territory. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment will apply to 27.5 percent of the territory.

The foreign minister did not rule out the possibility that after the elections in the territories the Palestine National Council will be disbanded and the elected council will become the supreme Palestinian body. Our correspondent notes that the accords stipulate that two months after the council's establishment, Palestinian Covenant clauses calling for the destruction of Israel are to be annulled.

Foreign Minister Peres is scheduled to dine this evening with the foreign minister of Oman. The foreign minister continues to hold talks with various foreign ministers attending the UN General Assembly session. Yesterday Shim'on Peres held a meeting with the foreign minister of Djibouti, an Arab League member, and with the foreign minister of Qatar. Our political correspondent notes that it was agreed on again in his talks with his Qatari counterpart that the Arab boycott on Israel would be abolished, and that the two countries would set up reciprocal commercial representations. The two ministers also discussed reciprocal visits, but no dates were set.

Egyptian President Mubarak Meets With Clinton

NC2909172095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 29 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton held a summit meeting today at 1030 Washington time, 1630 Cairo time.

The talks, held at the oval office in the White House, were attended on the Egyptian side by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Presidential Office Chief Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, and Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir.

On the American side, the talks were attended by Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross, and a number of U.S. Administration officials.

[In a related Washington-datelined report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1635 adds: "Speaking to journalists before his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, President Husni Mubarak said he would discuss with the U.S. President various issues related to the peace process.

["The president added: We will also discuss Bosnian developments and concentrate on issues of cooperation in the region and on the upcoming economic summit in Jordan.

["The president said many other issues would be discussed with the U.S. President.

["Asked about future U.S. investment in Egypt, President Clinton stressed that relations between the United States and Egypt are extremely important. He said Egypt plays a leading role in the region; it supports peace and stands against terrorism.

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["President Clinton added: I think it is important to support investment in Egypt especially since Egypt has a pivotal role in the region and will have a role in development in the Middle East. We are looking forward to seeing the Palestinian people and all peoples of the region reap the fruits of peace.

["He noted that Egypt was the first country to make peace and that President Mubarak led and advanced the peace process firmly and determinedly."]

Mubarak Meets Perry, Leaders of House, Senate

NC2909182795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1755 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 29 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met at noon today Washington time with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry at President Mubarak's residence in Blaire House.

It has been learned that the meeting, which lasted for 30 minutes, dealt with military cooperation between Egypt and the United States and several other issues of interest to the two countries, with particular emphasis on the latest developments in Bosnia and prospects for peace in light of the U.S. initiative.

Following the meeting, President Mubarak proceeded to the Congress, where he is meeting with members of the Foreign Relations Committees in the U.S. House and Senate as well as with House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Official Comments on Meetings

NC3009080295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2210 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, 29 Sep (MENA) — After President Husni Mubarak's meetings today with members of the U.S. House and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif state that these meetings were marked by appreciation for President Mubarak, as one of the world's renowned presidents and a leader well known within the U.S. House and Senate.

Al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak had been warmly received and recognized by members of the committees as one of the peacemakers not only in the Middle East, but in the entire world. He added that members of the committees had stated that were it not for President Mubarak's interest, efforts, and respect for his advice both by the Palestinians and Israelis, peace would not have been made and the historic meeting in Washington, which was seen by the whole world, would not have been possible. They added that history will recognize President Mubarak's role with appreciation and respect.

Minister al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak had answered several questions during the meeting on the peace process and the efforts exerted to reach the Palestinian-Israeli peace. President Mubarak explained the efforts being exerted to achieve progress on the remaining tracks so that a full, just, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East could be achieved. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak added that signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is not the end of the matter. This agreement, he added, needs efforts and thorough implementation, for there are many details that need the efforts, backing, and support of all parties. President Mubarak added: So long as there is a desire there will be success.

Regarding the situation in Iraq, President Mubarak noted that he respects legitimacy. He added: We must find a solution to the equation of providing assistance to the Iraqi people and easing their suffering, regardless of Iraq's policies. President Mubarak stressed that despite its situation Iraq must remain unified and that Egypt's position, which rejects any attempt to divide Iraq, is clear.

Regarding the escape of some of Iraq's leaders to Jordan, President Mubarak said: Those who left Iraq are among the key figures of the Iraqi regime and are responsible for all its past policies. He added: The issue of their defection must be treated normally and realistically, without exaggeration.

Asked if Egypt is prepared to receive Egyptians accused of carrying out terrorist operations who now live abroad and against whom judicial sentences were passed, President Mubarak pointed out that these people are nothing more than Egyptian citizens who committed crimes and were convicted by courts. If they are extradited, the law will apply against them for the criminal acts they have committed. He stressed that these criminals have no influence inside Egypt.

Regarding economic reform, President Mubarak explained the various stages of the economic reform process in Egypt. He noted the clear improvement in the balance of trade, the stability in the exchange rate, the decline in the budget deficit, and the successful steps made to liberalize the economy and give market mechanisms and the private sector a chance. He noted the achievements made in the first, second, and third five-year plans and the giant projects being built in Egypt to serve the Egyptian citizens and prepare Egypt for a surge in various economic, agricultural, industrial, and other fields.

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President Mubarak referred to the improvement in the tourism market following success in striking at the elements of terrorism and confronting them with firmness. He added that the people reject all acts of violence, which have nothing to do with religion or ideology.

Minister al-Sharif added that President Mubarak had answered several questions on the situation in Algeria and its confrontation of terrorism, the Western sanctions against Libya, the situation in the Gulf, Egyptian-Sudanese relations and reasons for their deterioration, and the issue of Bosnia and the annihilation of and aggression against the Bosnian people. President Mubarak noted the importance of the U.S. role in putting an end to the ongoing conflict in Bosnia.

Egypt's Mubarak Gives Interviews With CNN

NC3009155695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 30 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt is fully convinced that sitting at the negotiating table is the basic way to resolve the Middle East problem. He said that starting from this principle, he worked very hard with the Palestinian side until the second stage of the Palestinian self-rule agreement was signed in Washington the day before yesterday, Thursday.

Mubarak said in an interview with the U.S. news channel CNN that was aired today that when implementation of the second stage of the autonomy agreement is finalized, the conditions will be better for discussing the Jerusalem issue and other matters.

President Husni Mubarak said that we have had many obstacles during negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, but we have managed to overcome them. Now, we have gotten to the implementation of the second stage of the self-rule agreement and we will face many problems.

In this regard, he emphasized the need to have the Palestinians and Israelis join hands in resolving their problems, as they should, and thus progress.

Asked if he believes there is a set plan or certain steps the Palestinian and the Israeli sides are currently studying, the president said that there is no clear plan. The stances now center on the holy places.

On the future of the city of Jerusalem, President Husni Mubarak pointed out that the late President Anwar al-Sadat had asked that Jerusalem be open to all religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. He said that at the time al-Sadat proposed flying the Saudi flag, for example, over the Islamic holy places.

President Mubarak clarified that things have changed now. He expressed his belief that the problem of Jerusalem is complicated, as President 'Arafat has already said. However, President Mubarak asserted the need for the Palestinian and Israeli sides to concur on a framework for agreement on the status of East Jerusalem.

President Mubarak reaffirmed Egypt's readiness to help bolster this trend in order to reach an agreement satisfactory to both sides.

Asked if Syria is ready to negotiate now, since elections are approaching in the United States and Israel, President Husni Mubarak said: "I believe that the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be implemented at the end of October. Pressure should not be put on Syria because elections are coming up in one place or another. This would make the Syrians feel pressured."

President Mubarak expressed his belief that the Syrians want to reach agreement with Israel, but there are some differences, which will be discussed in detail when negotiations between the two sides resume soon.

On the nature of these differences, President Mubarak explained that they have to do with the locations of the early-warning centers and the areas of disarmament.

Asked if the Israeli right-wing Likud Bloc will have any effect on the implementation of the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement if they win the elections, President Mubarak said: I know that if the Israelis sign an agreement, they will respect it. This happened to us: When the Likud Bloc signed the peace agreement with Egypt, it was implemented. The final stage of the agreement was also implemented by the Labor Party. They do not break the agreements they sign. If they do violate it, they will be criticized by the whole world.

President Mubarak pointed out that he rules out the possibility that a Likud success in the next Israeli elections would affect Egypt's relations with Israel or the course of Israeli negotiations with Syria.

On the subject of terrorism, President Mubarak said that terrorism is an international phenomenon that is not confined to just Egypt. He said that we are in control of the security situation in our country.

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With REUTER

NC3009214195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 CMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak made a statement to REUTER television [as received] today. He said that the Palestinians merely want to live in dignity and liberty, rebuild their homeland, and find jobs.

The president said he expects the Syrian-Israeli negotiations to be resumed soon.

The president noted that acts of violence and opponents to peace are found everywhere. He cited as an example the opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David Accord.

Asked the chances of establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederacy, the president pointed out that it is up to the people concerned to decide their destiny.

In answer to another question on peace between Syria and Israel, President Mubarak said that Syria wishes to establish peace on the basis of legitimacy.

Regarding the Jerusalem issue, the president remarked that things quieted down after the signing of the Washington agreement two days ago, making future negotiations over Jerusalem easier. He added that he does not think that Jerusalem should be divided.

President Mubarak said that the question of the Egyptian POW's [killed in wars with Israel] is a complex matter, and he demanded that a swift investigation be carried out.

On another issue, the president said that he had telephoned br ;er Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in connection with the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya. He added that he hopes that brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will decide to stop deporting Palestinians.

Further on REUTER Interview

NC0110070695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 30 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has declared that Syria wishes to establish peace with Israel whether it is now or in the near future.

In an interview with REUTER television [as received], aired today, President Mubarak said that the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement is an important step on the road of peace and is bound to expand self-rule and provide an opportunity to hold the third phase of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

President Mubarak expressed the conviction that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will have positive effects on serious negotiations between the Israelis and the Syrians. He added: The Syrians have their own ideas and I believe they have a great desire to establish peace and a peaceful settlement of the Golan problem. The president said that the agreement is bound to enable the Palestinians to work, take care of their children, set up projects, and promote their standard of living.

Asked about the chances of establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederacy, President Mubarak said: I believe it is up to the people concerned to decide their destiny because nobody can impose anything like that on them.

Regarding Jerusalem, which will represent the axis of the last phase of negotiations, President Husni Mubarak said: I cannot talk about the final status of Jerusalem. But I would like to say that after the implementation of the agreement there will be a completely suitable atmosphere for achieving a solution to the issue of Jerusalem acceptable to the Israelis and Palestinians. President Mubarak said he does not think Jerusalem should be divided at present. However, there are holy places about which they should work out a solution without dividing the city, and I think that this is what 'Arafat said, the president added.

To the question whether Egypt will adopt legal procedures abroad concerning the Egyptian POW's who were killed by Israel during the 1956 and 1967 wars, President Mubarak said that this issue is a complex matter and that a swift investigation should be carried out. If it is proven that the Israelis in fact killed Egyptian POW's, I believe they should stand trial, President Mubarak said.

To a question on how much the Syrians are prepared to enter into negotiations with the Israelis, President Husni Mubarak told REUTER television: I believe the Syrians want to hold negotiations, but I think that perhaps they cannot do so without the assistance of a third party, let it be the United States, so that the two sides can work out a fair agreement that would achieve the interests of all the region's peoples.

Regarding the expulsion of thousands of Palestinians from Libya, President Mubarak said he had telephoned Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and asked him not to deport more Palestinians. He said that the reason for the expulsion is perhaps due to Libya's inability to provide job opportunities for the Egyptians, Sudanese, and Palestinians.

On the issue of cooperation between the Israelis and the Palestinians to combat acts of violence, President

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Mubarak said: I believe this would be a successful way to ensure the implementation of the agreement.

With THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

NC0110192995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 1 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met at his place of residence in Washington today with a team from THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR led by George (Moffet). The president also received a group of chief editors of major U.S. newspapers from several western and central states. He gave press interviews to the two delegations.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak in today's interviews dealt with the question of Egyptian prisoners. The president emphasized that Israel has to conduct the necessary investigations to uncover all aspects of this issue, which concerns Egyptian and Arab public opinion. He noted that such issues are not subject to the statute of limitations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Commenting on the second-phase accord of the Palestinian-Israeli track, President Mubarak stressed the importance of both sides' commitment to implement all provisions of the agreement scrupulously and sincerely. The aim, he added, is to create a positive climate for mutual trust in support of the peace process and encouragement for those who back this process.

President Mubarak reiterated the statement he made during his meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the importance of the Palestinian side being ready to assume various responsibilities of self-rule in various spheres as defined by the second-phase agreement of the Oslo Accord.

The president noted Egypt's willingness to train Palestinian cadres who are getting ready to assume the responsibility for running all the utilities and activities that are to be handed back to the Palestinian Authority. He also noted Egypt's willingness to meet the Palestinian Authority's requirements for qualifying and training the necessary cadres to operate these utilities, such as those of water and electricity. And it will also train security personnel.

The information minister added that, regarding the situation in Iraq, President Mubarak in his press interviews stressed the importance of the international community coming up with an acceptable way to end the Iraqi people's suffering resulting from the embargo on Iraq.

Quray', Christopher, Peres Meet in Washington

JN2909205295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a tripartite meeting held in Washington this evening that brought together Trade and Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the three men discussed several issues, including the implementation of the provisions of the Oslo B accord, financial aid to the National Authority, and the establishment of industrial areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

'Arafat Says Palestinian State 'Soon'

NC2909155095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 29 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the Palestinian state will be established soon.

In a statement following a meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Blaire House today, 'Arafat said the Palestinian state "is certainly coming."

He said he and President Mubarak discussed "several important" topics. He said he asked the president "to lend us further support and to help us in the next stages."

'Arafat stressed that the results achieved so far, the latest of which was the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in the White House yesterday, could not have been achieved "without President Mubarak's efforts."

He noted that President Mubarak sent Dr. Usamah al-Baz to Israel to hold talks with Israeli officials and try to surmount the latest obstacles hindering an agreement.

Asked about the release of Palestinian detainees in Israel, 'Arafat said the detainees will be released as one of the fruits of the agreement that was signed yesterday.

He pointed out that the release will take place in three stages, the first after the signing of the agreement, the second before the elections, and the third at the end of the elections.

The Mubarak-'Arafat meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir. On the Palestinian side the meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin).

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'Arafat's Washington Activities Reported

JN3009094495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Report by 'Abd-al-Salam Masarwah in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat ended his visit to Washington yesterday and addressed a group of prominent U.S. and Arab businessmen and investors in the United States. President 'Arafat appealed to the U.S. businessmen of Arab origin to help the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and take part in rebuilding the infrastructure of the Palestinian entity.

The Builders for Peace [preceding words in English] society hosted a breakfast yesterday. The society is chaired by Dr. James Zogby and former U.S. Congressman Bill Levine. The breakfast, held following the signing of the Taba agreement on 29 September, was viewed as important because the figures which participated in the dialogue were the elite of the business community and firms which might invest their funds in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the not too distant future.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, [Planning and International Cooperation minister], Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member], and many of those having to do with Palestinian affairs in the U.S. arena, also attended.

President 'Arafat said that the Palestinian Authority [PA] needs the assistance of those businessmen because the PA started work from scratch and needs everything. He said he hopes there will be coordination between these businessmen and the U.S. Administration to promote cooperation. President 'Arafat said: Frankly speaking, we all can do this. He added: I am sure that in this crucial stage we need our friends. There is a saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed. 'Arafat said that the matter is not easy, but he is certain that cooperation and coordination will pave the way, and that everybody has a clear picture about the PNA.

President 'Arafat spoke of his relations with the World Bank and its officials and how they accept travel hardships to the PA areas to help the Palestinians. 'Arafat invited all the U.S. and Arab businessmen to visit the Palestinian territories; the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to become acquainted with these areas, noting the coordination with Israel and Jordan. He said that Israel is our neighbor, and the Israelis are partners now and not only cousins. He said he and Shim'on Peres discussed several issues.

'Arafat then spoke of the industrial zones to be established in the West Bank. He said that six zones will be established in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip, and that these zones require the support and contribution of the U.S. businessmen. He said that the ad hoc committee formed from the donor countries and the world Bank works to assist these industrial zones. He said: However, the PNA needs the participation of those working in the industrial and investment fields.

'Arafat said that he hopes to establish a new singapore in the region. That's why, the PNA needs urgent assistance.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President 'Arafat answered many questions by the businesmen, most of which dealt with facilities for U.S. firms wishing to invest there and on assistance and obstacles that might hinder the activities of these firms.

'Arafat also participated in the meeting of the ad hoc donor countries committee under the sponsorship of the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The committee met last Thursday following the conclusion of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers took part in this meeting. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Saudi Ambassador in Washington were seen at this meeting, as well as the Kuwaiti foreign minister and other GCC foreign ministers.

The Norwegian foreign minister, President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Jordan's King Husayn, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak participated in yesterday's multinational meeting. These meetings and consultations were to pave the way for the economic conference in Amman at the end of October.

The Palestinian president yesterday met with several committees from the Senate and the House of Representatives, and met with the World Bank director general, and THE WASHINGTON POST editorial staff which interviewed him. The paper will publish the interview this morning.

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Algeria

Algiers City Center 'Rocked by Violent Explosion'

NC3009115895 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Sept 30 (AFP) — The centre of the Algerian capital Algiers was rocked by violent explosion Saturday [30 September] morning, an AFP correspondent reported.

The blast took place on the Boulevard Ammirouche near central police headquarters and several banks at a time of day when large numbers of people would be on the streets.

Gas Explosion Kills 1, Injures 11

LD3009125195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique from the fire and rescue service said that there was a gas leak on the fifth floor of a building situated in Khaled Atout Street in the capital at 1220 [1120 GMT] which killed one person and caused slight injuries to 11 others.

According to the same source, the gas leak caused considerable damage to the building. The communique also said that the rescue services rushed to the site of the incident and gave first aid to those affected.

'Arafat Arrives for Meeting With Zeroual

Interviewed on Peace Process

LD3009202595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of the newscast we report the arrival in Algiers today of the Palestinian Head of State Yasir 'Arafat, who is coming from Washington on a visit to our country.

He was welcomed at the Houari Boumediene International Airport by Abdelkader Ben Salah, president of the National Transitional Council, Mihoub Mihoubi, the advisor of the Presidency and the official spokesman of the Presidency, and Ahmed Attaf, the secretary of state for Maghreban Cooperation and official spokesman of the Government, as well as Mr. Abu-al-'Izz, the ambassador of the State of Palestine to Algeria, and staff of the Palestinian Embassy.

At the airport VIP lounge 'Arafat answered some of the questions put to him by our colleague Rachad Khattouf:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I have the honor to come here — to the land of the one and a half million martyrs — to discuss with my brother President Zeroual everything that I was involved in during these difficult negotiations and the agreement we reached, and to listen to his valuable advice. Palestine always and forever needs this Algerian backing which Algeria has always provided for Palestine — Algeria is always with Palestine no matter what.

[Khattouf] Mr. President, how do you see the implementation of the self-rule agreement against the background of the opposition of some of the states which are participating in the Middle East peace process?

['Arafat] No doubt the implementation is not easy. As the first stage required from us effort, tiredness, and time, we also expect that this stage would require from us effort, tiredness, and time. But the important thing at this stage now is that we have arrived in the West Bank and at all the populated areas in it; the Israeli withdrawal will begin gradually until December from all the towns, villages, camps, and the populated locations so that the electoral process can begin immediately after that for the first election on the land of the Palestinian homeland which has been deprived of such an election for a long time. [end recording]

Briefs Zeroual on Taba Talks

LD0110095095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Oct

[FBIS Translated Text] President Liamine Zeroual, received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in his office this morning.

Following the meeting, the Palestinian leader stated that he had briefed Zeroual on the Taba negotiations between Palestine and Israel.

'Arafat also indicated in his statement that the second phase of the Declaration of Principles will be implemented later.

He pointed out, however, that Jerusalem is an electoral zone for the purpose of the forthcoming elections.

Comments on Meeting With Zeroual

LD0110183095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Liamine Zeroual received at the presidency this morning Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine.

The meeting was attended by Abdelkader Bensalah, the speaker of the Transitional National Council; Mihoub Mihoubi, diplomatic adviser and official spokesman for the presidency; Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for cooperation in charge of Maghreban affairs and official spokesman of the government, and 'Abu-al-'Izz, ambassador of Palestine to Algeria.

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After his meeting with head of state Liamine Zeroual, President Yasir 'Arafat gave the following statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am pleased with this good and blessed meeting that I held with his excellency the president and I thanked him officially, in my own name and on behalf of the Palestinian people, for the Algerian stance that backs the Palestinian people and their legitimate cause. I explained to his excellency the details of the exhausting negotiations that took place between us and the Israelis. As Algerians, you know the difficulties of these negotiations [French-Algerian negotiations] and the problems that followed them including the OAS [Secret Army Organization] that was faced by the Algerian people.

In reality I am proud of this good meeting, during which I listened to the valuable advice of his excellency the president so as we can complete, God willing, our march. As you know, this is the second stage during which the influence of the Palestinian National Authority is to expand to the West Bank. Immediately after that, we will hold the elections and I want to inform you that Jerusalem is one of the Palestinian constituencies. [end recording]

With regard to the release of Palestinian prisoners, which is one of the complex points in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, President 'Arafat explained that it will take place in three batches in accordance with the agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] We agreed on the release of Palestinian prisoners in three batches. The first batch will be released immediately after the beginning of the withdrawal, the second one before the Palestinian elections, and the third after the Israeli elections. [end recording]

Concludes Brief Visit

LD0110104695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Algiers this morning following a brief visit during which he was received by the head of state, President Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

Armed Group Kills 18 in Bus Attack in Laghouat

LD0110163295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement from the security services said today that 18 people, including three young children and a woman, were killed this morning at about 0900 by an armed terrorist group in a place called Rabta in Laghouat Province.

The security services statement adds that this criminal attack also left 15 wounded, the majority of them children, and started when a bus travelling between the Ghicha area and Anfous in Aflou municipality in Laghouat Province was suddenly attacked by an armed group. This attack led to the killing of the number mentioned above.

The statement explained that as soon as this news arrived, the security forces hurried to the spot and were able to determine where the armed group was. They killed four terrorists and are still searching for the other members of this terrorist group.

Security Services Kill 30 'Terrorists'

LD0110192195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said today that their forces had succeeded in eliminating 26 terrorists during numerous search operations in the provinces of Algiers, Blida, Constantine, Tiartet, Medea, Tipaza, Bouira, Boumerdes, and Jijel, and recovering quantities of Kalashnikov weapons, hunting rifles, sown off shot guns, and homemade hand grenades.

Another statement by the security services pointed out that their forces had succeeded this morning in eliminating a dangerous terrorist group made up of four criminals in Chlef. At the end of the operation, the security forces recovered two Kalashnikov rifles, two automatic pistols, two transmission sets, a quantity of ammunition of different calibers, and instigative documents some of which contained information about the criminal activities of the aforementioned group, including eight assassinations, and acts of sabotage and arson.

Egypt

U.S. Jury Finds Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Guilty'

NC0110190895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1617 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, 1 Oct (MENA)—A U.S. jury has found Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman guilty on a number of charges. The U.S. network CNN interrupted its normal programming to broadcast the news.

The jury at the Federal Court in New York reached its final verdict after 37 hours of deliberations over a period of seven days.

The jury found the 10 defendants guilty on almost all of the 25 charges of which they are accused.

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The jury convicted Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman on charges of attempting to assassinate President Husni Mubarak and to attack the U.S. Army with bombs. The jury also found Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman guilty on other counts, including instigating the assassination of President Mubarak and instigating others to carry out bomb attacks. [passage omitted]

Musa Interviewed on Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

NC2909222995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule, signed in Washington yesterday, constitutes an important and qualitative turn. He described the agreement as balanced between Palestinian and Israeli interests and the best that can be achieved under the present circumstances.

In an interview with the BBC broadcast this evening, the foreign minister noted that the agreement is a great step toward the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation authority, as well as Israeli troops, from Palestinian cities and villages. Musa emphasized that a Palestinian state will unquestionably come and that the right to self-determination is the core of the coming elections.

Asked if Egypt will put pressure on Israel to speed up the implementation of the Taba Agreement, Musa said that the implementation will show exactly where everybody stands. Musa hoped that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will give impetus to the Syrian-Israeli track. He added that it is clear U.S.-Syrian contacts will be held in the coming stage to activate this track. He emphasized that Syria supports the peace process based on the Madrid conference.

Libya

Western Sources Cited on Bid To Kill al-Qadhdhafi

MM2909145095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Reports Say al-Qadhdhafi Escaped Assassination Attempt By Fundamentalists in Surt"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Western diplomatic sources in Tripoli have stressed that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was exposed to an assassination attempt on 17 September in the city of Surt. A specialist British bulletin quoted these sources yesterday as saying that two men opened fire on the Libyan leader while he was leaving his Jeep-type Toyota vehicle, and that the two men were wounded when his guards opened fire. They were reportedly taken to the hospital, but leader al-Qadhdhafi was not hurt.

The sources described the assassination attempt as "very serious," saying that Libyan warplanes flew over the city for two days, and Army troops were called in and set up roadblocks.

It is worth mentioning that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi does not like staying in Tripoli and prefers to stay in Surt, his birthplace, where the revolutionary committees which believe in his Third World theory are based. The Libyan leader spends most of his time in Surt since the aborted assassination attempt carried out by a fundamentalist group when it attacked the al-'Aziziyah base, headquarters of the Libyan leadership.

The diplomatic sources noted a "striking similarity" between the recent attempt on al-Qadhdhafi and the attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa last month [as published]. Egypt accused Islamic elements of carrying it out, saying that they had been trained in violent actions in Sudan.

It is all but certain that there is a strong link between the attempt on al-Qadhdhafi and recent troubles in Banghazi, Sabha, and some other Libyan areas. These incidents prompted the Libyan leader to pursue an "ethnic cleansing" policy, ordering the expulsion of 1.5 million Sudanese and 500,000 Egyptians (most of them had lived in Libya for decades), claiming that the expulsions were aimed at ridding the country of the workers staying in the country illegally and at creating more jobs for Libyans.

Clashes occurred recently in Banghazi between Islamic elements and Libyan security forces. They resulted in several people being killed and others wounded. The Libyan Government played down their significance, saying that they had involved policemen and some smugglers. [passage omitted]

Morocco

'Arafat Meets King, Comments on Taba Agreement

LD3009221695 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II today received at the Royal Palace in Rabat Palestinian Head of State Yasir 'Arafat. On arrival of the Palestinian president at the Royal Palace, a guard of honor mounted by the Royal Guard took the salute for His Excellency. Following that he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, and HRH Prince Moulay Rachid. The Palestinian president was accompanied by Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Abu Marwane, Palestinian ambassador to Morocco. During the audience 'Arafat

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handed the king a copy of the 462-page agreement on the extension of the Palestinian self-rule which was very recently signed in Washington. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure from Morocco, and following his audience with King Hassan, 'Arafat made the following statement at Rabat-Sale Airport:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] No doubt the purpose of this visit was to acquaint his majesty the king with all details of what took place — with God's blessings — in Washington. I have handed to his majesty a copy of the agreement we have signed — about 462 pages. I have listened to his good and valuable advice, of which we are proud in order to complete this march, especially that we still need his majesty's support and assistance to implement precisely and faithfully what has been agreed upon and signed in Washington. As you know we should inevitably see to it that the implementation of the agreement should be congruent with what has been signed. I have acquainted his majesty the king of everything that took place between myself and the Israeli side at the Taba talks and the agreements we reached and signed at Washington. We always and forever need the efforts of his Majesty the king and his blessed endeavor as well as his constant support so that we can complete this march to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region. We jointly expressed our wishes that such progress would also be made along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks so that peace would be just and comprehensive in the region. In my personal name and in the name of my brothers the members of the Palestinian delegation and in the name of the Palestinian people I thanked the king for everything his majesty and Morocco have given in order to facilitate the peace process and move it forward. We always and forever need his majesty's consultation and valuable advice. I should here inevitably point out that we do not address his majesty the king not only as king of the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco but also as chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the permanent chairman of the Jerusalem Committee — Jerusalem which is in His Majesty's heart and on his mind; God willing, we will all pray in Jerusalem. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Loan Agreement Signed With Kuwaiti Development Fund

LD2909220695 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A loan agreement was signed today in Rabat between Morocco and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development according to which rural areas will be provided with drinking water within the framework of the national program for combating the drought.

[Unidentified correspondent] The value of the loan agreement, which was signed today between Finance Minister Mohamed Kabbaj and Mr. Badr Mushari al-Humaydi, the fund's director general, is 290 million dirhams.

According to the stipulations of this loan, which will be repaid over a period of 24 years at an annual interest rate of 3 percent, it will finance the program of providing the rural areas with drinking water, which requires more than 360 million dirhams.

If the value of the loan offered today represents around 80 percent of the cost of the program's work, it forms the 20th ring within the series of Kuwaiti loans for Morocco, which currently exceed 5 billion dirhams. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Egypt, Protests, al-Turabi

NC2909164295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Sep 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In exclusive statements to AL-SHA'B following his international news conference held at the Sudanese Embassy premises in Cairo, Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. 'Uthman Muhammad Taha said Sudan wants to maintain its relations with Egypt. He stressed that this is part of the current regime's principles and program. He noted that some procedures have been revised, such as entry arrangements to Sudan—despite their importance for investment—to halt the pretexts that accuse Sudan of rallying terrorist figures on its territory.

The Sudanese foreign minister said the negative steps are bound to weaken bilateral relations and serve the enemies. He denied reports that things were getting worse in Sudan and about the size of student demonstrations. He said the demonstrations are linked with the external scheme that is aimed at overthrowing the Sudanese Government. He said this scheme started in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, in an attempt by the opposition and regional forces to destabilize Sudan.

The Sudanese foreign minister added: These forces tried to incite the students by exploiting problems being experienced by some utilities and services. But most students did not take part in the demonstrations. Even if 6,000 students participated in the demonstrations, as the news agencies said, you should know that there

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are 600,000 students in Khartoum. Only 10 percent of students demonstrated. And three out of Khartoum's 10 universities demonstrated. It is not true that 600 students were detained. Only a few dozen were detained but most were released.

The Sudanese minister refused to give a direct answer to a question on whether Sudan will withdraw its ambassador from Cairo as a reaction to Egypt's cancellation of the appointment of an ambassador in Khartoum. He said: "I will not rush in with an opinion. Every development is studied and the appropriate reaction is determined accordingly. But we realize that negative steps weaken bilateral relations and this serves the enemies." [passage omitted]

Asked the truth in reports that differences now exist between the military leaders (notably President al-Bashir) and the Islamists (Dr. al-Turabi's group) and that al-Bashir got rid of Islamic leaders, the Sudanese foreign minister said: This equation is wrong, because it assumes that the existing regime is based on an alliance between al-Bashir and al-Turabi's group. The current government is not a "mixture" of military men and Islamists, as is being said. It is a nationalist government supported by many forces. Reports of a clash between al-Bashir and al-Turabi are not true, because al-Bashir is a president who represents all the forces in the country.

The Islamists in Sudan — added the minister who was Dr. al- Turabi's deputy in the National Islamic Front — support the existing regime because it represents a meeting point for all Islamic and nationalist forces, even the non-Muslim ones.

He said the Islamic trend cannot enter into a silent or public confrontation [with the government] because it lost some positions here and there. He said a change of posts is a natural thing and it is Sudan's policy not to keep officials in their posts for long. This is meant to renew activity and use the various abilities of the officials, he said. [passage omitted]

Opposition Reports 'Huge' Demonstrations

EA2909224695 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Masses of our people, led by the railway workers in Atbarah have come out in huge demonstrations over the past two days. They called for the fall of the [national Islamic] front's regime and condemned the policies of the regime [words indistinct].

The demonstrations (?began) in the morning [words indistinct]. The security organs of the [National Islamic] Front failed to control or disperse them. They asked for more forces to control the deteriorating situation [words indistinct].

Journalists Arrested for 'Masterminding' Riots

EA0210093595 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of recent demonstrations, the National Islamic Front's [NIF] security organs have arrested two journalists, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Khaliq, and Huda Mahjub. The authorities have also issued instructions to arrest 11 others. They are: Nadir Mahjub Muhammad Salih, Amin Mahmud, 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Qadir, (Miadil 'Ubayd), Mustafa Buhayn, Taha Muzaffar, Sami Idris, Abu-bakr al-Amin, 'Ali Babikr, Nadiyah al-Zayd, and Ayyub Mustafa.

The authorities have accused these journalists of masterminding the recent riots, and of publishing AL-SHABIBAH, the mouthpiece of the Sudan Youth Union [affiliated to the Sudan Communist Party], as reported in the 27 September edition of AL-KHARTUM newspaper.

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Bahrain

Government Releases 43 'Political Prisoners'

NC0110213495 Paris AFP in English
2133 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 1 (AFP) — Bahrain has freed 43 political prisoners over the last three days and talks are continuing with the government to release hundreds more, an opposition leader said Sunday [1 October].

The prisoners were accused of participating in civil unrest that broke out in the Gulf country last December, but they had not been tried, 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, leader of the Bahraini Shiite opposition party, told AFP by telephone in Nicosia.

Shaykh al-Jamri, who was released on September 25 after six months in jail, also said another group of prisoners would be freed Monday, as part of the accord reached between the opposition and government in August.

"Under the accord, 300 people were to have been released at the same time as me, but officials decided to release them in small groups," al-Jamri said.

Forty people were released along with al-Jamri, which brings to 300 the number of prisoners freed since August. But the opposition says that a total of 2,000 people were arrested during the civil unrest, which caused 12 deaths.

Al-Jamri added that talks were continuing with government authorities. Opposition members have over the last few days spoken with officials about "the release of political prisoners sentenced to death, who number 85, according to authorities," al-Jamri added.

The talks also included the return of opposition members in exile, he added, saying that certain religious leaders who fled to Iran have recently returned to Bahrain.

Al-Jamri said that the stage of talks with the government would center on "political questions, notably the re-establishment of the constitution and the return of parliamentary rule."

Al-Jamri was one of the principal signers of a petition demanding the reinstitution of Bahrain's parliament, which was dissolved in August 1975.

Unrest broke out in Bahrain last December after the arrest of a Shiite religious leader, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, who was expelled in January. The situation has been relatively calm since April.

Kuwait

Iraq Reportedly Concentrating Forces in South

Minister Expresses Concern

LD0110164595 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Replying to a question by a KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY correspondent on reports published in today's "THE SUNDAY TIMES", 'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, has indicated that the state of Kuwait takes seriously the reports published in the British "THE SUNDAY TIMES" which indicated that Iraq is secretly concentrating its troops in the southern regions of the country, declared a military free-zone by UN Security Council Resolution 949.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning added that Kuwait is following the news report and, it reiterates the need for Iraq to comply with the Security Council Resolution 949 passed following the Iraqi concentration of troops near the Iraqi-Kuwait borders in October 1994, prohibiting any Iraqi concentrated military presence south of the 32d parallel.

Army State of Alert Denied

NC0110111795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1042 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 1 Oct (MENA)—A responsible Kuwaiti military source has asserted that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border is being closely monitored around the clock through sophisticated equipment and this is being done with the cooperation of friends from the coalition countries, particularly the United States.

Commenting on reports that Iraq is secretly preparing to mass its troops near the Kuwaiti border, the source told MENA in an exclusive statement that the operations room of the Kuwaiti Army staff headquarters is promptly receiving detailed reports on the latest developments on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. It added that the equipment used to monitor the situation in the border area is capable of identifying such massing of troops well in advance of their arrival on Kuwaiti territory.

The source stressed that the Kuwaiti forces are capable of confronting all possible developments in the border area in cooperation with the forces of the friendly countries deployed in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti military source did not rule out an extension of the duration of the joint Kuwaiti-U.S. military exercises now taking place near Kuwait's northern borders if necessary. These exercises began in mid-August and are scheduled to end in mid-October.

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The source denied that a state of alert has been declared in the Kuwaiti Army's ranks. It stressed that these forces are always prepared and that the level of readiness will be raised or mobilization declared if necessary.

It should be recalled that reports citing Pentagon sources said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is secretly preparing to mass his troops near the Kuwaiti border.

Army Said To Cancel Leave

NC0210102295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0915 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 2 Oct (MENA)—An official Kuwaiti military source has said all leave of all personnel in the Kuwaiti Army has been canceled as a precaution against any contingency. He said the Army's general staff will keep an open session until the situation is clarified. Iraq is reportedly massing troops south of the 32d parallel, which involves a threat to Kuwait's security and safety.

The source told MENA that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has called an emergency meeting of the Supreme Defense Council, which embraces ministers and military commanders. The meeting is expected to be held tomorrow.

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has decided to cancel the ministers and senior officials' leave as a precaution against any contingency.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Welcomes Palestinian-Israeli Accord

LD2909124495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1053 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, 29 Sep (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributed to the peace process in the Middle East since its beginning through the development of the Arab stand. His highness described King Fahd's plan and the Fes conference as the first step in the formation of an Arab strategy for peace.

In a statement to SPA after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington yesterday, his highness said that the kingdom contributed and continues to contribute to and participate in the peace process and supports the Arab and Palestinian brothers.

His highness remarked on the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington yesterday and said "Actually the gathering yesterday was the second step of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and no doubt it was a positive step toward a just and comprehensive peace because it opens up prospects for reaching the main points and the final solution at which the questions of the settlements, the return of the Palestinian refugees, and foremost the question of Jerusalem will be discussed. Now the door has been opened to the negotiations which we hope will be speedy."

His highness added: "Therefore, it is the conviction of the kingdom that this agreement is a step forward which renews hope that it will lead to the final settlement and to the peace treaty which President Yasir 'Arafat spoke about yesterday. At the same time, and this was also stressed within the framework of the conference, peace cannot be divided, and without reaching an agreement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks the peace will remain out of reach." [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on the status of Jerusalem in the coming phase of the negotiations, his highness the foreign minister said: "I believe that the final stage is the core and essence of the subject. The position of the kingdom in this respect is clear and historical; it continues to back the Arab position and will continue to back it."

Kingdom Grants $100 Million to Palestinians

LD2909222195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2045 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced it has granted $100 million to support the Palestinian people in 1995. A press statement issued by the Saudi Arabian delegation attending the ministerial meeting of the committee coordinating donations to the Palestinians, which was held in Washington last night, referred to the kingdom's continuing participation in backing the international efforts to help the Palestinians. [passage omitted] Follows the text of the statement:

Press statement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia delegation to the ministerial meeting of the committee coordinating assistance granted to the Palestinians: Washington, 28 September, 1995.

The United States played host today to the signing ceremony of the agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis on the extension of the self-rule area of the Palestinian authority. It is expected that this will be an important step leading to the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participates on this occasion out of its commitment to support the Palestinian people so that the latter can regain their lawful rights.

This aid is designed to fund development projects via international organizations, participation in the Holst

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fund for peace, for administration expenditure, and the Palestinian police fund [word indistinct].

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also paid great attention to rebuilding existing Palestinian amenities, and to building others which serve the needs of developing the Palestinian economy.

At the 1992 Washington ministerial conference of donor countries the kingdom announced its participation in supporting the international effort to help the Palestinians with a sum of $100 million for the year 1994.

Implementation of numerous development projects in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank has been taking place with the cooperation of the International Bank, the UN Relief and Works Agency, UNESCO, and the Islamic Development Bank.

Joint Military Committee Meeting Held With Yemen

LD3009171595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 30 Sep — The first working session of the joint Saudi-Yemeni military committee's fifth round of talks was held this afternoon in Jeddah.

Staff General Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Hammad headed the Saudi side, and Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, chief of the general staff of the Yemeni armed forces, headed the Yemeni side.

The agenda, and the approval of work in accordance with the working paper presented by the Saudi side, which included the points agreed upon in the fourth round of talks which was held in Sanaa, were discussed during the session.

Yemen

'Fundamentalists,' Security Forces Clash

MM2909153395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah: "Yemen: Clashes in al-Dali' Between Army and 70 Extremists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa — Yesterday the city of al-Dali' (180 km north of Aden) witnessed armed clashes in which tanks and RPG's were used between forces from the Army and security forces and "extremists" sheltering in houses they had stormed by force.

Security sources have told AL-HAYAH over the telephone from al- Dali' that "the clashes began at 1500 in Habil Jabari in al-Dali' after a group of 'fundamentalists,' led by an Algerian named Adam Salah-al-Din, also known as Abu-'Abd-al-Rahman, had managed to occupy a number of houses by force and take refuge inside them. Members of the group opened fire on an Army camp in which the Hamzah Brigade is based. In addition to machine guns they also used RPG's — which forced Army troops to react and cordon off the area and deploy tanks in the city."

The sources said that "members of the extremist group — about 70 of them — were carrying machine guns, bazookas, and hand grenades. They were all bearded."

Extremist elements belonging to the Algerian Abu-'Abd-al-Rahman opened fire on a wedding party in the city in the middle of last month, using machine guns and a hand grenade, which did not explode. They said that wedding parties are "a heresy and against religion" And they urged citizens to fight the authorities, because they are "corrupt" and allow women to work alongside men and girls to study alongside boys.

The security sources confirmed that "there are casualties among Army and security forces, which found it difficult to storm the extremists' positions, since they were taking refuge in citizens' houses and there were women and children." The sources pointed out that "the RPG's were used to fire into the air to terrify the extremists and force them to give themselves up before using force, in order to avoid huge loss of life."

Leading military figures have said that "the battle with the fundamentalists is crucial this time, and we will not allow them to terrorize citizens or undermine security and stability in the city or anywhere else in the country." The sources added: "There are strict instruction from Sanaa to launch a decisive strike against those tampering with security and stability and exploiting our true Islamic region."

The clashes continued until yesterday evening. This is the second confrontation between security forces, reinforced by military units, and extremist elements in the southern governorates since the end of the civil war last summer. Aden, the economic and commercial capital, witnessed similar clashes in late August last year, when extremist elements destroyed the tombs of holy men in the areas of Crater, Shaykh 'Uthman, and al-Tawahi

Algerian, Others Arrested After Clash

JN2909204395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Security forces in the al-Dali' district arrested Adam Salah-al-Din Abu-'Abd-al-Rahman, an Algerian working as a teacher contracted

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by the Ministry of Education, after he tried to create denominational differences that contravene the constitution and the valid laws and which are contrary to the educational mission of teachers.

Stating this to the SABA' news agency, Staff Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, the interior minister, noted that the Interior Ministry had earlier summoned the above-mentioned individual to Sanaa but he refused. The security authorities were then forced to engage him [al-Ta'amul ma'ahu] and those who cooperated with him. The operation to arrest him and his accomplices resulted in the martyrdom of two security men and the injury of five others. One of the man's accomplices was killed and another wounded. The minister said that the man and his accomplices were brought to Sanaa for interrogation.

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Official Denies Troop Buildup at Kuwait Border

JN0110181595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 1 Oct (INA)—The head of the Iraqi Interests Section in London has denied today's allegations by THE SUNDAY TIMES that Iraq is secretly massing tanks and troops near its border with Kuwait.

He said the report in THE SUNDAY TIMES is a mere fabrication and a desparate attempt to create tension in Kuwait. It is, he added, also part of the usual false campaign launched against Iraq before the Security Council makes its periodic review of the blockade. Such a review will be made next week.

REUTER reported from Washington that a U.S. Defense Department official had announced that he had no information of Iraqi concentrations and said: We are monitoring the region continuously.

The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission [UNIKOM], which is monitoring the border between Iraq and Kuwait, has also denied any abnormal Iraqi movement in the border area between Iraq and Kuwait, and stated that the situation is calm and normal.

UNIKOM Official Spokesman Salim Fahmawi told AFP that the UNIKOM observers did not monitor any Iraqi troop movements within the area under UNIKOM's responsibility on Kuwait's northern borders, and that UNIKOM continues its air and land patrols in the area.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti AL-SIYASAH paper two days ago Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah said he fears a new Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said the next three months will be very critical for Kuwait.

His statement resulted in an unprecedented sharp drop in trading activity in the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange. Some Kuwaiti parliamentarians have criticized his statements, saying he is heralding a nonexistent catastrophe, and that such statements undermine the economy and lead to the flight of capital.

Opposition Radio: Guards Shoot at Citizens

JN0110171595 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources in Baghdad have stated that the mercenaries of the collapsing regime tasked with protecting the homes of the ruling family open random fire on any car that comes near any of these homes, and kill citizens who come near any of the entrances leading to these houses.

Our sources said the guards of the palaces of 'Udayy and Qusayy, the sons of the defeated tyrant, recently opened fire on two young Iraqi men, killing them under the pretext that they had come near the homes of the lowly 'Aflaqites.

Our sources also said Saddam's henchmen charged with guarding the home of Taha al-Jazrawi [Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan] fired on a small car, which set it on fire and killed its three occupants. The three had lost their way and approached an alley leading to the house.

'Reliable Sources': Security Officers Liquidated

NC0110173995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reliable sources in Baghdad told the KURDISTAN NWAY newspaper today that the 'Aflaqite regime's security authorities liquidated several officials of the Public Security Directorate in various ways after General Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. Among them were Brigadier General Fawzi, director of security in Baghdad, who was killed and his body left in his car outside Baghdad; Colonel Shakir, commander of the 3d Branch, in charge of Kurdistan affairs; Colonel Yasin, commander of the 4th Branch; and Lieutenant Colonel Mahir, a senior official in public security.

Time Bomb Reportedly Found at Baghdad Hotel

JN0110161095 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The regime's organs of repression recently found a time bomb in a corridor of al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad just a few minutes before stupid 'Udayy was supposed to arrive at the hotel.

Our sources said the hirelings of the regime besieged the hotel and prevented criminal 'Udayy from entering it in an operation in broad daylight which attracted the attention of the citizens.

The sources said that the security forces haphazardly arrested employees and clients of the hotel, which is usually frequented by members of the criminal intelligence service.

Government Claims Allies Used Chemical Warfare

NC3009181195 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Sep 95 p 12

[From the "World of the Media" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] The allies used an extremely advanced chemical and biological compound named "Tricoticine," which has lethal, long-term effects on humans, animals, and even on plants.

The Iraqi mission at the United Nations distributed a pamphlet at the United Nations on 21 September

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discussing this topic. It says: The United States and its allies used lethal chemical and biological elements against Iraqi forces and citizens which not only have long-lasting effects on the environment and people of the region, but are also considered an unforgivable crime against human ecology.

According to this report, the tests that have been carried out on water, soil, and botanical specimens in the region as well as blood and urine tests of the residents in the area show the presence of the toxic material "Tricoticine," which had never before been detected in the region.

This pamphlet gives no precise information on the exact location where the allies used this toxic material, but there is evidence of the use of this chemical substance in southern Iraq.

"Tricoticine" is considered a very deadly substance to the human environment. It is known to cause diarrhea, nausea, bleeding in the digestive tract, skin irritation and blisters, shortness of breath, vertigo, and ultimately neural disturbances and inflammation of the meninges of the brain.

UN's Ekeus Notes 'New Information' on Arsenal

NC3009215995 Paris AFP in English 2142 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 30 (AFP) — Iraq has handed over new information on its weapons programme, Rolf Ekeus, the senior UN official responsible for monitoring the dismantling of Iraq's mass destruction arsenal, said on Saturday [30 September].

"Iraq has provided us with new information in all areas," Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM), told reporters after a long meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, the country's deputy prime minister.

Ekeus said it had been an important meeting and he had obtained documents that would make it easier for his team of inspectors to verify Iraq's degree of disarmament.

He said his latest talks with officials here were aimed at speeding up the work of his commission on eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, a task imposed following Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War.

Ekeus, who is expected to continue his work in Baghdad on Sunday, the last day of his latest mission to the Iraqi capital, has held two meetings with Oil Minister General Amir Rashid, who is also acting head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Organisation, since his arrival here on Friday.

He is due to report on October 11 to the UN Security Council on the state of Iraq's mass destruction arsenal.

The UNSCOM head on Friday said he would seek more information about Iraq's nuclear, ballistic, chemical and biological armaments, pointing out that the germ warfare program was considered "the most important."

Iraq, which has been under a UN oil and trade embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, will be allowed to resume oil exports only when UNSCOM certifies that its mass destruction programs are dismantled.

Committee on Missing Kuwaitis Signs Minutes

JN3009193095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the chairmanship of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the meetings of the sixth session of the subcommittee charged with determining the whereabouts of missing Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis were held at the Port of Umm Qasr in the al-Basrah Governorate on 26-27 September.

The meetings were attended by representatives of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain, and France. The discussions, which were held in a positive atmosphere, addressed the continued search for missing people, given the importance of the humanitarian aspect of this endeavor.

At the conclusion of the meetings, all conferees signed joint minutes. Furthermore, they agreed to hold the next session of meetings on the Kuwaiti side of the border next month.

It should be recalled that the subcommittee's fifth session was held on the Kuwaiti side of the border in August for the first time. It was attended by all sides, including Iraq. These sessions were previously held in Geneva.

It must be said that this is the first time official representatives of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain, and France have come to Iraq since the passage of the cease-fire resolution of 1991 to take part in meetings on missing people. This will foster climates of trust among the countries concerned and consecrate the humanitarian aspect of this issue.

AL-HAWRAH Urges Dialogue With U.S.

JN0110091495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH urges the United States to pursue a policy of dialogue with Iraq.

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In an article today AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: It would be better for Washington to abide by what it calls "international legitimacy" and to adopt the policy of what it calls [dialogue] because such a policy is the most efficient way to establish security and stability in the region.

The paper criticizes recent statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton, aired on CNN television, in which he says that in order to implement the UN resolutions, the political regime in Iraq must be changed.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The entire world has the right to ask, What is the connection between the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions and changing the political regime in Iraq? And how can the head of a major power dare to intrude on the UN resolutions and Charter, especially in a matter that concerns a member state, and a founding member, of the United Nations?

The paper adds: The U.S. President should have said only [words indistinct] the UN resolutions to be able to reach understanding with the international community. This is especially the case as the UN Security Council member states, particularly Russia, France, and China, are talking about the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and [words indistinct] in Iraq, the UN Security Council must fulfill its obligations [words indistinct] Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The paper stresses that the U.S. President must understand very well that the political regime means Iraq and that President Saddam Husayn means the Iraqi people, with their history, struggle, glory, honor, and enthusiasm. He must also understand that the Iraqis fully realize the role they play in the region's security and stability; when the U.S. fleets were quite far from the waters of the Arabian Gulf, they did not blackmail the peoples of the region nor steal the funds of the Arab people like the Americans did.

The paper stresses that the U.S. Administration, which adopts double standards and pursues a policy of deception, is trying to employ the international organizations and their resolutions to serve its hostile objectives against several independent states, particularly Iraq.

Saddam Confers With Turkish Parliament Official

JN0110161495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1530 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Mumtaz Soysal, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Turkish parliament and former foreign minister.

The president praised Mumtaz Soysal for supporting rights and justice, and for his eagerness to maintain the historical and friendly relations between Iraq and Turkey.

They discussed relations between the two countries, as well as the importance of safeguarding them based on mutual respect for sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, respect for the legitimate joint interests of the Iraqi and Turkish nations, and preventing every form of foreign influence and interference in the two countries' affairs.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister.

Turkish Official on Sanctions Issue

JN0110170995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1405 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, today met with Mumtaz Soysal, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Turkish parliament.

Khadduri reviewed during the meeting the results of the unjust blockade, as well as the suffering of the Iraqi people from the lack of food, medicine, and other necessities.

He referred to the historical relations between the two neighborly countries, as well as the need to boost them in all areas for the benefit of the two nations.

Mumtaz Soysal called for lifting the unjust blockade and ending the suffering this ugly blockade is causing to the Iraqi people—a blockade maintained by the United States in violation of international resolutions and charters.

He reviewed the severe losses the blockade has caused to the Turkish economy. He said his country has so far lost $25 billion, and that unemployment increased after economic and trade activities with Iraq came to a halt.

He also asserted that the Turkish people oppose the presence of foreign forces on Turkish territory because they are harming his country's independence and are also threatening the unity and safety of Iraq, Turkey's neighbor.

He pointed out that the Turkish parliament and press are willing to contribute to the popular presidential referendum in Iraq, adding that the Turkish parliament has decided to form a parliamentary delegation to attend this democratic event.

Mumtaz Soysal then attended a session of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the National Assembly. The session dealt with current developments

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in the region, the experience of autonomous rule in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the gains our Kurdish people have made from the 17-30 July revolution.

Foreign Minister Meets Turkish Counterpart in U.S.

JN3009111795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 30 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met yesterday with Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu in New York.

The two ministers discussed bilateral ties and issues of common concern. Al-Sahhaf briefed the Turkish minister on the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council.

Kurd Figure Signs Agreement With Iranian Group

NC3009172595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Thursday, 28 September, Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and the delegation accompanying him left Tehran to return to Damascus at the end of a nine-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Wednesday, 27 September, brother Jalal Talabani received at his place of residence in Tehran His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and Shaykh Mawla. They discussed the latest Kurdish and Iraqi developments and bilateral ties. Jalal Talabani and Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim signed a bilateral agreement on coordination and joint action in order to escalate the struggle against the dictatorial regime in Baghdad and overthrow it.

Kurd Group Studies New U.S. Plan for Peace

NC3009174395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. State Department yesterday invited Dr. Barham Salih, member of the Leading Committee of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and Hosher Zibari, member of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], to its offices and gave them a copy of the newest U.S. proposals for a new plan for peace in Iraq's Kurdistan. The plan apparently includes new details regarding a solution to the Irbil problem and the remission of customs fees, especially the revenues of the Ibrahim al-Khalil [border point], to the treasury of the regional government. A neutral committee will supervise the implementation of the plan.

AL-ITTIHAD, the central newspaper of the PUK, contacted by telephone a high—ranking PUK official whom it cited as saying: It seems the U.S. Administration is continuing its efforts to mediate between the PUK and the KDP. We highly appreciate the U.S. position and hope the new plan bodes well for the Kurdish people. The official added: The PUK will study the new U.S. draft plan to restore peace in Kurdistan.

Kurd Forces Reportedly Execute 3 From Rival Group

NC0110173495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 9 September, the Kurdistan Democratic Party forces arrested three people loyal to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in the [place name indistinct] complex on charges of purchasing weapons. On the night of 12-13 September they were executed by a firing squad under an unjust ruling without trial. [passage omitted]

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Rabin Attacks U.S. Jewish 'Circles' Over Lobbying

LD3009122195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made a tough speech in New York last night concerning the political struggle that is being waged both in Israel and the Diaspora between those who support the arrangement with the Palestinians and those who oppose it.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Rabin said the decision is now between Jewish values or real estate assets. Some people attribute importance to land, Rabin said, whereas I attach greater significance to values.

Attacking the proponents of Greater Israel, Rabin asserted that the Bible is not just a collection of old property deeds. The prime minister also sharply criticized certain circles among U.S. Jewry. Let us encourage our supporters and ignore the extremists, he said. We will not rush to appease them regardless of their religious titles or status in the community. The current attempts by Jewish elements to undermine the policy of an elected Israeli Government through the U.S. Congress are unprecedented. In my eyes, these people are detestable and not worth wasting time upon. History will be their judge, the prime minister said.

Rabin said that the implementation of the Oslo B agreement would prove much more difficult than the efforts required to formulate the document.

Rabin Said To View Bosnia-Like Solution for Territories

TA3009191595 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen's video report from New York]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, who will be back home tomorrow, is happier than ever with the so-called Oslo B accords. Rabin said: We made a moral decision, opting for values and rejecting land and real estate.

Now the prime minister's thoughts are directed toward the future, to the permanent arrangement. We have learned that he and the U.S. secretary of state discussed the feasibility of emulating the solution implemented in Bosnia: dividing the land between the two nations, although the division would be unofficial. [passage omitted]

Rabin Returns From U.S., To View Prisoner Issue

TA0110160795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has returned to Israel. Rabin was given a state ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport by the ministers, the coalition chairman, and the chief rabbis. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that Prime Minister Rabin will hold a meeting with President 'Ezer Weizman this evening to discuss the Palestinian prisoner release issue.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, who accompanied the prime minister in his trip to the United States, reports that Mr. Rabin continued to criticize circles in U.S. Jewry who are acting against the agreement with the Palestinians. During the flight, the prime minister told correspondents that the partnership with U.S. Jewry should involve all spheres, but in issues of war and peace those who do not send their children to serve in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have no moral right to act against the policy of a government democratically elected by the citizens of Israel.

The prime minister sharply criticized what he termed the impudence of those who tried to lobby the U.S. Congress against the U.S. aid for the Palestinians. Mr. Rabin said this is a red line as far as relations between Israel and the aforementioned elements in U.S. Jewry are concerned. Mr. Rabin believes the main aim of Zionism today should be to absorb as many Jews as possible in Israel. He expects U.S. Jews to contribute at least 15 percent of the sum that Israel is investing toward immigrant absorption.

The prime minister said that terrorism is the main problem in implementing the agreement with the Palestinians. He said that there is a Knesset majority for endorsing the agreement with the Palestinians. Referring to Knesset Member [MK] 'Imanu'el Zismann's threat not to support the agreement, Mr. Rabin said the Knesset seat is not the private property of the MK. Rabin refused to say whether Zismann should return his mandate.

According to Mr. Rabin, the PLO has ceased its involvement in terrorism, and all the liars in Israel should be told the truth. Mr. Rabin also said that terrorism is being perpetrated by the enemies of peace with the obvious political intention of foiling the peace process.

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Weizman Defers Prisoner Decision; Rabin Comments

LD0210063995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President 'Ezer Weizman will announce his decision about freeing Palestinian women prisoners only after the Knesset debate on the Oslo B agreement this Thursday [5 October]. The president conferred with Prime Minister Rabin last night in Jerusalem. The prime minister said the government would respect any decision by the president, and also stressed that he is opposed to releasing Jewish prisoners who murdered Arabs.

Asked by reporters to comment on U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision not to free convicted spy Jonathan Pollard at the moment, Prime Minister Rabin replied that he was very disappointed.

The Likud says it is opposed to freeing killers, whatever their nationality. The opposition party has issued a statement accusing Prime Minister Rabin of hypocrisy and self-righteousness because he opposes freeing Jewish prisoners who killed Arabs, while at the same time he is ready for the wholesale release of Palestinian killers.

Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir ruled yesterday that the president can intervene in cases of prisoners who were tried in Israeli courts, but not those sentenced in the territories. He also said that only a military court — and not the president — could grant a pardon to such prisoners. Ministries of Justice and Defense have sent President Weizman the files of some 30 Palestinian women prisoners for review.

The Jerusalem Supreme Court will today hear the legal plea of 10 Jewish prisoners who claim they are being discriminated against. They say that if Palestinian prisoners who have killed Jews are to be pardoned, so should Jews who have killed Arabs. Special security arrangements have been made to guard the prisoners during their Jerusalem hearing. Representing the group are Alan Goodman, 'Ami Popper, and Yoram Shkolnik.

Likud: Rabin Preparing Public To Give Up Jerusalem

TA3009124795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the remarks made last night by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in New York, the Likud Knesset faction said that by his statements, the prime minister is attempting to prepare Jewish public opinion to give up Jerusalem.

Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the chairman of the Likud's Political Committee, said that Rabin, who considers Hebron a real estate asset, will eventually view the Western Wall as a heap of stones.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that when the Oslo B agreement is submitted to the Knesset members for perusal this week, the Likud faction will issue a document it has prepared highlighting those clauses in the document which, the Likud asserts, the government is trying to play down. These clauses include the stationing of Palestinian polling places in Jerusalem and a clause stipulating that additional territory will be handed over to the Palestinians every six months.

Peres Comments Further on Accord Implementation

TA0110122795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Hemi Shalev in New York]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that the possibility emerging now is that the Palestinians will choose to hold their elections in January, before the evacuation of Hebron. Peres said that Israel had promised the Palestinians that if they choose this option Israel will make "special arrangements" to render voting possible. The Palestinians will probably hold elections in Hebron at a later date.

Peres added that at this stage the arrangements in the Cave of the Patriarchs will remain in effect. Israel promised the Palestinians to "rescrutinize" these arrangements three months after Hebron's evacuation is completed, but did not promise it would change the status quo. Peres further said that the Palestinians will have full security responsibility only in 2.7 percent of the West Bank area, which is the area of the evacuated towns.

Peres noted that "all roads in the West Bank will be open to Israeli citizens, but that they will be able to choose whether to travel through the Palestinian towns or to travel on the bypass roads, which will be paved. The roads in the B and C areas will be under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] responsibility, and only roads in the towns themselves will be under the Palestinian police's exclusive responsibility. [no end quotation mark as published]

Joint patrols will regularly operate on certain roads. Also established will be "a joint mobile unit" which will respond to calls.

Peres noted that nothing has been changed with regard to extradition arrangements between the two states [as published].

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The World Bank will build 40,000 housing units in Gaza and the West Bank and will finance the construction of a "raised highway" from Jericho to Gaza at a cost of $100 million. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that the bank will build 10,000 housing units for young couples, but it was learned that the overall plan is for the construction of four times as many apartments. Peres said that feasibility studies show that the construction of the raised highway would involve about half of the cost of a railway between the two places.

Paper: Clinton Did Not Earn Credit for Oslo Accord

TA2909180395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 95 p A2

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The American Taxpayer's Favorite Formula"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At no time have so many statesmen gathered at the White House to sign such a temporary agreement. The hosts insist that the bride and groom — the Israelis and Palestinians — initiated another event sponsored by U.S. President Bill Clinton, while the Americans were glad to provide the stage, the rabbi, the caterer, and the band. Seizing this festive occasion, the Americans also invited some relatives — the Gulf states, and friends: the Europeans, Japanese, and Canadians — hoping to secure pledges to help the young couple build a house and find a way to make a living.

Although most major television networks were quick to move from the East Wing on Pennsylvania Avenue to "the trial of the century" in a Los Angeles courtroom, Clinton still got his opportunity to be photographed in the company of the internationally successful. The U.S. audience is not interested in the borders of Jericho or the date of the elections in Hebron. They do not really care what the Japanese foreign minister thinks of the Middle East's future. The bunch of Jews demonstrating in Washington for or against the agreement probably knew little about the agreement reached by Uri Savir and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] in Taba, or who these people are, or whether Taba belongs to Egypt or Jordan. The American public likes to have kings and presidents paraded before them by the President — a reminder that despite everything, the United States is the only superpower in the world.

The U.S. security and economic (as well as diplomatic) contribution to the Israeli-Palestinian conciliation stands in inverse proportion to the credit it has reaped. This is the third Israeli-Arab agreement sponsored by Clinton for which Clinton has not even lifted a finger. This is, however, the American taxpayer's favorite formula: high profits in the international stock market in return for a small investment. When Clinton decides to send troops to guarantee the implementation of the emerging peace accord in Bosnia, he will encounter a solid wall of opposition in the shape of U.S. representatives to Congress. The same will happen when it is time to dispatch troops to the Golan, and the same did happen when the Senate was called upon to approve a modest $100 million in aid for residents of the territories.

'Arafat's second visit to White House, in the company of some of the world's most prominent statesmen, was another step toward introducing the Palestinian people to the international consciousness. No address is more legitimate than the White House for bestowing full legitimacy on the budding political entity of Gaza, and now also for the entire West Bank. A man who was a welcome guest at the sanctum sanctorum of U.S. sovereignty is better equipped to claim sovereignty over land of his own. In addition to furthering 'Arafat's international standing, any White House ceremony strengthens his standing among his own people. As we all know, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin does not mingle with the lords and masters of the world, and neither has he been fortunate enough to obtain a U.S. President's signature at the bottom of an agreement on the removal of Jewish soldiers from the streets of Nabulus. 'Arafat was afforded an opportunity to use the ceremony to call up the treasures of the Arabic language to emphasize the difference between the leader of a nascent state and those who remain underground.

In view of the right wing's opposition to and the left wing's apprehensions about the most irrevocable agreement with the Palestinians, and in anticipation of the upcoming Knesset vote, Rabin had a pleasurable respite in the limelight, and more than that, at his meeting with the President. The prime minister was quick to exact the price of peace which Clinton's speeches have often promised. He obtained a semi-promise to favorably consider the request to pardon Jonathan Pollard, to make loan guarantee funds available for army redeployment in the West Bank, and to increase the advance loan for economic growth and immigrant absorption.

Later, accompanied by President Mubarak and King Husayn, Rabin received a bonus in the form of (yet another) declaration about the termination of the Arab boycott. The four-way summit was also the stage for a meeting of two Arab adversaries, who have conversed even less than Rabin and 'Arafat. President Mubarak holds a grudge against King Husayn for his remarks about Iraq. Apropos the continued Israeli-Palestinian conciliation, Clinton can assure the president of Egypt than the United States is not scheming (with Israel) to place King Husayn in Saddam Husayn's seat. The

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absence of the Syrian ambassador and his deputy (contrary to previous ceremonies) from the ceremony, as well as Rabin's observations in his briefing to reporters, may indicate that the White House celebration was not to Hafiz al-Asad's liking.

Likud To Submit Bill on Law for Jordan Valley

TA0110170395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud faction has decided to submit a bill to the Knesset calling for the implementation of Israeli law in the Jordan Valley. The bill will introduce territorial continuity from the Bet She'an Valley to the Dead Sea.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, head of the Likud's political committee — who was appointed by his faction to handle the bill — says that Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley is also part of Labor's platform, therefore the Likud expects Labor to support the bill.

Settlers Hurl Stones at Arabs, Police in Hebron

TA3009155095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of settlers today hurled stones at Arabs in the Policeman's Square in Hebron. Two female American tourists, who were watching and filming the scene, were also pelted with stones, and one of them was even punched in the ear.

Hebron Station policemen were taking two suspects in for interrogation, but one of them escaped as they were being led on foot to the police station at the Cave of the Patriarchs. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that two more settlers were apprehended later, and again, one of them managed to escape.

As the police were detaining suspects, settlers flocked to the Cave of the Patriarchs area, and some of them hurled eggs at the police.

Our correspondent adds that several Arabs today complained to police that settlers had hurled stones at their cars, causing damage.

Territories Closure Until 5 Oct; Exceptions Allowed

TA3009183295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure on the territories will remain in effect until the morning of 5 October. Nevertheless, Israel will permit Palestinians to move convoys and trucks with army escorts.

Closure May Be Prolonged; Islamic Jihad Attack Feared

TA0110193995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure imposed on the territories 10 days ago may continue until the end of the Sukkoth festival. As things stand now, the intention is to lift the closure on the day after Yom Kippur. Our correspondent in the south Shlomi Eldar reports that in the Gaza Strip there is great anger over the prolonged closure. The trade unions in the Gaza Strip demand that 'Arafat pressure Israel into lifting the closure immediately. They claim that this is not the fitting reward that the Palestinians deserve for signing the interim agreement.

Our correspondent notes that the closure was imposed after Israel received information that Islamic Jihad terrorists plan to carry out an attack in Israel. This information was relayed to the Palestinian security services.

Despite the closure, Israel is permitting trucks carrying goods to exit the Gaza Strip.

Police, IDF Step Up Alert Due to Expected Attacks

TA0210055595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have beefed up their forces in the territories and along the Green Line following information that extremist Muslim organizations opposed to the Oslo B agreement are planning new terror attacks.

Security sources told Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent Karmela Menashe that the decision to extend the closure of the territories also results from the threat of new acts of terrorism. A senior security source also disclosed that there is information that the extremists are planning to hit Jewish and Israeli targets abroad, where security measures have also been stepped up.

IDF soldiers have been ordered to increase their alertness at roadblocks, hitchhiking stations, and at the entrance to Army bases.

Official Study Sees 'Stalemate' in Syria Talks

TA2809102695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by Alon Pinkas and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A written assessment submitted recently to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by an

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official government organ contends that the stalemate in talks with Syria is real, and that the November 1996 US election renders progress even less likely.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, however, said yesterday that the time may be ripe to nudge Syria toward peace with Israel.

A cabinet minister close to Rabin said he "generally agrees with the assessment and is in no hurry to initiate any drastic moves in the talks with Syria, especially in light of elections in Israel and the upcoming implementation of the Oslo 2 agreement.

"Rabin was sincerely and genuinely interested in a deal with Syria. In fact, as far as he was concerned there was a 'Syria first' policy in 1993 and for most of 1994. But now we are entering a crucial election year and given the obstacles in the talks with the Syrians, I don't see the government opening a second political front, especially now that the agreement with the Palestinians has been signed.

"The strategic advantages of a peace agreement with Syria are tremendous, but the public will not feel its immediate effects. Nor will the public be disadvantaged by the absence of an agreement," the minister said.

The report estimates that President Hafiz al-Asad "still shows no signs of urgency in reaching a deal with Israel. He believes that Israel's security demands, as presented by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq to his Syrian counterpart in Washington last June, are tough and uncompromising and are designed to ensure an Israeli military presence on the Golan Heights."

The report, a periodic assessment of regional developments, also contends that al-Asad realized the US election is bound to eclipse the Middle East, and that President Bill Clinton will be unable in 1996 to get the financial assistance an Israeli-Syrian deal may require. [passage omitted]

PA Urged To Allow Independent Autopsy of U.S. Citizen

TA0210070395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Betzelem human rights organization has called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to permit an autopsy on the body of 'Azzam Musalih — the Palestinian holding American citizenship who died while being interrogated by the Palestinian security service in Jericho. Betzelem also demands that an independent pathologist conduct the autopsy.

The organization has sent a letter to Yasir 'Arafat condemning torture methods used by his security service and also called for an independent commission of inquiry.

Court Rejects Hijacker's Appeal for Release

TA2909125395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Beersheba District Court today rejected the appeal of Reza Jabbari, the hijacker of the Iranian plane, who had asked to be released from detention and sought political asylum in Israel. The court ordered to keep Jabbari in detention until Thursday, 5 October.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the District Attorney's Office representative argued that the investigation into the affair is not over, adding that his office has still not received all the material relating to the investigation. The attorney general will have to decide what to do with the Iranian hijacker and whether to file charges against him.

Egypt Not To Participate in Jerusalem Conference

TA2809155495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has canceled its participation in the Jerusalem conference. In a letter directed to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Egypt explained that the Amman conference is slated to be held during the same period, noting that the decision on the Jerusalem conference was made only after the Amman conference was scheduled.

Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin told our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov that Egypt has decided not to participate in the Jerusalem conference because it believes the conference to be a political occasion held during the city's 3,000th anniversary celebrations. Some 4,000 persons from 44 countries — including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf countries — will participate in the Jerusalem conference.

Jew Stabbed in Jerusalem's Old City

TA2909125595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A jew was stabbed in the back on David Street, near Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem's Old City. The wounded man, 31, is currently being transferred to the Hadassah 'En-Kerem Hospital with the knife still stuck in his back. Our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky and 'Ofra Nehmad report that after being attacked, the man managed to fire two shots in the air.

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Poll Gives Netanyahu Victory Over Rabin

TA3009192295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] What would be the outcome of elections if they were held today? A poll conducted by Teleseqer for our Sabbath supplement, on a race with the participation of Rabin, Netanyahu, Refa'el Eytan, and David Levi, showed the following: 36 percent voted for Rabin, 31 percent for Netanyahu, 12 percent for Eytan, while David Levi had to settle for 8 percent.

If the above happens and none of the contestants obtains 50 percent of the votes in the first round of the election, a second round will be held with the participation of the two leading candidates. In our poll, Netanyahu beat Rabin by 1 percent. [passage omitted]

Were Knesset elections held today, the vote distribution would be as follows: Labor, Meretz, and the Arab parties — 52 seats; Likud, Tzomet, and Moledet — 44 seats; National Religious Party, Torah Jewry, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] — 14 seats; and the new lists — David Levi's party, the Third Way, and the immigrant party — 10 seats.

The interviewees were asked to rate their satisfaction with Rabin's performance. Some 57 percent were not satisfied with the prime minister's general performance. Asked to rate the prime minister's handling of the peace process and the negotiations with the Arabs, only 42 percent said it was good; only 44 percent of the polled public were satisfied with the prime minister's foreign and defense policies; 58 percent were satisfied with Rabin's handling of economic issues; and 50 percent were pleased with his performance in the social and welfare sphere.

The poll, which was conducted prior to the signing of the Oslo B agreement, included approximately 1,000 respondents.

U.S. Decision on Supercomputer Restrictions Hailed

TA3009123095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish said that President Bill Clinton's decision to ease export restrictions on supercomputers from the United States to Israel would put an end to the damage caused to Israel's civilian scientific and technological development.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Minister Harish expressed the view that these restrictions contravened declarations made by the United States on the need to uphold Israel's technological and qualitative advantage.

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Prince Hasan on Influence of Peace With Israel

JN3009180495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, said that Jordan's view on the future Middle East must be full of cooperation at the regional level.

His highness stressed the importance of dialogue among peoples of the region to shape its future.

Speaking at the Royal Hashemite Court to the delegation of the British College for Strategic Studies, the regent outlined the positive influence of the Jordanian-Israeli peace accord on the peoples of the whole area.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, also has received at the Royal Court members of the Jordanian technical working team for negotiations with the European Union to reach a partnership agreement with the EU.

The team briefed his royal highness on the latest stages the negotiations reached so far with the European side and the agenda of the next negotiating session in Brussels this month.

The regent gave his instructions to the team members on the importance of these negotiations which have substantive impacts on the relations between Jordan and the European countries. He underlined the need for well-prepared work for the talks to speedily hammer out the agreement with the best gains for the kingdom.

King Reportedly To Visit Israel Before Economic Summit

JN0110155695 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic 1 Oct 95 p 1

[Exclusive report]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MASHRIQ has learned from ranking Jordanian sources that His Majesty King Husayn will pay an official visit to Israel before the Amman economic summit. This visit falls within the framework of a Jordanian regional move on the Eastern and Western fronts.

The sources noted that progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and signing a plan to expand self-rule have opened the door wide to start negotiations on the content of the final solution, specifically the two most difficult issues — Jerusalem and the settlements.

Parties to the settlement issue turn to King Husayn, since he is considered an acceptable party to play an influential role in advancing the track of the final solution and extricating it from anticipated obstacles.

Despite the disorder in the political performance of governments during the past period, the tangible improvement in the relationship with the Palestinians, due to Jordan's role in rendering the Taba agreement a success and because of the improvement in Jordan's relations with Iran and Turkey, make Amman the subject of the regional parties' trust and qualify it to play a role in the future of Iraq that is bigger than what some think.

Moreover, Jordanian sources said that Egypt and Syria's angry stances, which tried to undermine the Jordanian role during the past months, is beginning to fade away. These sources noted that the subsequent developments in the positions of countries bordering Iraq made various parties, ahead of which are the Gulf states, feel the importance of an Arab move to contain the anticipated eruption in Iraq.

Opposition Intensifies Campaign Against Treaty

JN3009174795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Sep 95 , p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Opponents of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty on Friday [29 September] intensified their campaign against the normalisation of ties with the Jewish state by holding a general conference which was attended by 330 representatives of political parties and other activists.

The conference, held at the premises of the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP), was the product of 16 smaller meetings held in the Kingdom's governorates, five of them in Amman.

The conference's first secretary, Salim al-Nahhas of the JPDP, said in a welcoming address that the Jordanian people were being forced to relinquish their centuries-old heritage and principles by normalising ties with Israel and submitting to other principles.

"It was for the sake of these principles that you achieved what could not be achieved over a century of conflict with Zionism and Western imperialism," Mr. al-Nahhas said.

"You have achieved the unity of ranks of a coalition of Islamic, pan-Arabist and nationalist forces in a comprehensive opposition backed by all the people from north to south in confronting those relinquishing the principles of righteousness, justice, freedom and peace," he said, in reference to the parties that organised the conference.

These parties are the Jordanian Socialist Arab Ba'th, the Progressive Arab Ba'th, the Arab Action Front, the Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front, the Unionist Democratic, JPDP, the Jordan Communist and Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity parties. These parties

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formed the anti-normalisation coalition shortly after the signing of the treaty Oct. 26, 1994.

Mr. al-Nahhas said the Jordanian people "are in a permanent status of confrontation with the enemy in every Jordanian city, touristic site, street, cafe and shop,"

He praised residents of the northern city of Irbid for refusing to host the Israeli ambassador, saying people should learn from such an experience. He said Jordanians should feel proud of what happened in Irbid, adding: "After that, who can declare our defeat and say that the opposition is only a minority?"

"You are the majority and your organised action is the only guarantee to enhance the conviction of our people that this treaty has no chance to survive, that it will eventually fall... so let us strangle this treaty till it lies as a rotten carcass," Mr. al-Nahhas concluded, echoing the address of the conference's preparatory committee.

The committee called for rejecting all "surrender treaties" and all their results and called for coordinating efforts with opponents of the peace process in the occupied territories as well as Arab and Islamic countries.

The committee said it had set up sub-committees in several governorates despite "obstacles placed by the government" and has held periodic meetings at the level of the secretaries general of the nine opposition parties.

It said it has faced many obstacles until it managed to organise Friday's conference, condemning what it termed as the government's infringement on public freedom and arbitrary measures against the opponents of normalisation, recalling a government decision to ban a May 29 rally by the opposition parties.

On May 18, the government announced that the opposition parties could hold a public rally, but reversed that 11 days later, banning the rally shortly before it was to convene.

The government said the parties had sought to instigate public disorder by calling on Jordanians to resist the treaty in a communique issued before the rally was held.

The conference, chaired by IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan, issued a several-page communique in Arabic and English which it called "charter for protecting the homeland and confronting normalisation."

The charter, a copy of which was obtained by the JORDAN TIMES, urged the public to continue to regard "the Zionist movement as a threat to our Arab nation and its Islamic identity, and viewing the Zionist state as an occupying enemy, who has confiscated our Arab land, killed thousands of our martyrs and forced the dispersion of our people, and to take all of this into consideration in any confrontation against the enemy."

It also called on Jordanians "to resist all intellectual, cultural, political, educational and archaeological measures, exemptions or justifications that call for dealing with the Zionist enemy and forgetting its aggression against our land, people and freedoms, or to try to consecrate the rights of the enemy in our land."

It also called for ejecting any modification to school curricula and boycotting any invitations for seminars, conferences, fellowships of cultural, scientific, economic, or other competitions held by Israel or has Israeli participants.

It also called for boycotting Israeli goods or any kind of economic deals with Israel.

Opposition Parties Urge Efforts Against Peace Accord

JN0210092895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 95 p 12

['Special' report by Ramadan al-Rawashidah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Representatives of 10 Jordanian parties and independent politicians opposing the Jordan- Israel peace treaty and the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords on Sunday [1 October] called for collective action by the Jordanian and Palestinian people to abort the "Oslo and the Wadi al-'Arabah agreements."

The group, which is leading the campaign against normalisation with Israel, emphasised in a statement released at a press conference their total rejection of all the agreements and the treaties with Israel and any direct or indirect recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish state. It stressed its members were willing to sacrifice their souls in defence of the Arab character and identity of the Holy City.

The same group held a meeting in Amman on Sept. 29 attended by more than 300 people from 11 governorates in addition to Parliament members to reiterate their opposition of the peace accords and to hear the reading of charter described as the opposition's plan "for protecting the homeland and confronting normalisation."

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Party Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan read out at the press conference that meeting's final communique.

Among other things the communique admitted the many ideological and political differences in views existed among opposition parties, especially over the concept of "just peace." But it stressed that all the parties were

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in agreement on the minimum level of common ground, particularly in opposing any moves in Jordan towards normalisation with Israel as well as "protection of the homeland."

The communique voiced the opposition parties' call on "leaders of the masses" in Arab states for support and to pave the way for holding a pan-Arab conference on opposing the normalisation of Arab relations with Israel.

The parties passed a number of resolutions. One of them called on Arab countries to express solidarity with Syria and Lebanon in their rejection of what they called the Zionist-imperialist conditions for a settlement.

Another resolution called for a rejection of the Taba accord between Israel and the Palestine National Authority "in form and in content," while another called on the "masses" to confront government projects that open the way for Israel's participation in them or allow the sale of property to the Jewish state.

The communique also condemned the cancellation of the Arab boycott of Israel and denounced what they called the government's "violation of public freedoms, acts of repression," which, it said, "are being committed in the course of accelerating the drive to implement the Wadi al-'Arabah treaty."

The communique asserted that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference "will serve as an approach to what is termed as the new Middle East market, which does not serve national or pan-Arab interests."

The communique said the parties had elected a 15-member committee to follow up the implementation of the resolutions in three months.

Last May the government banned a conference by the opposition parties shortly before it was due to be held and said the parties had sought to instigate public disorder by calling on Jordanians to resist the peace treaty.

Amman's Influence at Taba Negotiations Highlighted

JN3009104695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "A First Step Toward Palestinian Statehood"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The agreement that Israeli and Palestinian leaders signed in Washington on Thursday on the finer details of interim self-rule in the West Bank has clearly established that the Arab-Israeli peace process is irreversible. The agreement also confounded assumptions among the hardliners on the Arab side that the 1993 Declaration of Principles (DOP) signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel was an Israeli ploy to end the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

For all practical and technical purposes, the accord that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed on Thursday is the first step towards Palestinian statehood. But it is indeed an arduous road that lies ahead. Extremists on both sides are bent upon wrecking the entire process, as we see from the reactions from the Israeli right-wing and the Damascus-based Palestinian groups to the self-rule agreement. The other side of the coin is the commitment that both Mr. Rabin and Mr. 'Arafat have displayed by pressing ahead with the negotiations despite the spasms of violence and not letting the hardliners have their way.

Indeed, the Declaration of Principles is one year behind schedule, but then it would have been naive on anyone's part to have expected an easy process of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, given the complexity of the issues before them.

For us in Jordan, the signing ceremony in Washington had an additional significance: it substantiated Jordan's argument that the Kingdom, by virtue of its own peace treaty with Israel, is in a much better position to positively influence the course of the peace process. Upon Mr. 'Arafat's request, His Majesty King Husayn intervened with Mr. Rabin whenever the going got too tough for the Palestinians in the negotiations, particularly over the status of Hebron. To a large extent, it was the behind-the-scene Jordanian intervention that saved the day since Mr. Rabin understood the Palestinian concerns better when they were put to him by King Husayn. For once, we also think, Mr. 'Arafat realised the key role Jordan played and would continue to play in the peace process. At least that is the message we got from his visit to Jordan the day after the initialing of the Taba accord and his public expressions of appreciation for the Jordanian role.

Definitely we would have liked to see Israel relinquishing its control over Hebron just as all West Bank towns, but it was not a straightforward cut and deal question. Much difficult as it is acknowledge, the fact remains that the 450 or so settlers in the heart of Hebron are a problem for Mr. Rabin as much as it is for Mr. 'Arafat. And the Israeli prime minister has made no secret of his view that it is absurd to have thousands of Israeli soldiers to protect the 450, who live among 120,000 Palestinians. It is, of course, clear that Mr. Rabin understands that the settlers have to leave Hebron. It is only a matter of methods and means to ensure their peaceful departure from the town.

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Barring the sore point over Hebron, it is unlikely that the self- rule agreement could have been any different from the way it was formulated in the last 16 months and signed in Washington on Thursday.

The next step is its implementation. While we congratulate our Palestinian brethren for having achieved the deal, we cannot but raise some concerns. For one thing, the first reflection of the agreement should be a qualitative change in the lives of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That is where the international community has to step in with a firm commitment to help Mr. 'Arafat prove to the sceptics that the course he opted for was the best indeed. In this context, it was heartening to note President Clinton and other leaders gathered in Washington on Thursday to issue a joint declaration pledging help for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). We hope the pledge would not remain simply a piece of paper. The snags in the delivery of assistance to the PNA should be removed once and for all. Let us not forget that the PNA is assuming responsibilities of running the lives of another two million people in the West Bank and any failure on its part to deliver the promises of a better life to the Palestinians would not bode well for the positive continuation of the peace process.

At the same time, it is not simply enough for the PNA to concern itself with administering self-rule. It has to ensure democracy, political pluralism and respect for human rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Again, the Palestinians have a fine example to follow just across the river—Jordan, which has adopted these key features of a civilised society as a way of life for itself. We stand ready to extend whatever help we could to the Palestinians, but it is essentially for the PNA to convince itself that democracy, with all that it entails, is the best way of life everyone around.

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Fadlallah, Islamic Preachers Reject Taba Accord

NC3009080395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Preachers at yesterday's Friday sermons unanimously rejected the Taba accord, stating that it is absolutely in favor of the Zionist gang.

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said the accord has placed the Palestinians in a big jail with the aim of tightening the grip on them. He said the treasonous accord signed by traitor Yasir 'Arafat has dismembered Palestine and left everything in the hands of the Jews, including security, water, and the economy.

Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, legal representative of Leader Khamene'i in al-Biqa' and north Lebanon, said 'Arafat's claim that the accord is in favor of the Palestinians is designed to delude the Palestinian people into believing that the accord secures their freedom but in fact it is humiliating and another surrender added to previous treason and surrender.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, affirmed that the accord is rejected by any fair person and cannot be a solution for the Palestinian problems because it is a surrender and an abandonment of the rights of Muslim Palestinians. He emphasized that this accord leads to more retreats in favor of the Zionist gangs.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli urged the Palestinians and all zealous Muslims to oppose the accord and confront the Zionist enemy. He said this accord gives Yasir 'Arafat the right to administer some affairs in the West Bank while the Zionists retain overall control. [passage omitted]

Minister Insists on Comprehensive Peace Accord

NC3009162295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Information Minister Farid Makari has said that partial agreements cannot establish a just and comprehensive peace, because they are like fire smoldering under the ashes. The Lebanon we want is a country for everybody without discrimination between regions, he said. He noted how important it is for all Lebanese to participate in building the future.

Speaking to a meeting in the town of Tannurin, Minister Makari stressed that north Lebanon is a unique model of coexistence and a living example of the desire for unity, interaction, and, accord. The minister said:

[Begin Makari recording] [passage omitted] Friends: Amid our domestic concerns and worries, we cannot forget the regional concerns, which we experience as we watch the accelerating developments that will have direct impacts on us. Lebanon has chosen a unified, honorable stand in the search for a just and comprehensive peace. Partial peace may restore lands — albeit in installments — but it does not preserve rights or dignity. The partial agreements we are witnessing today — agreements whose shakiness we know by experience — cannot serve as a foundation for a just and comprehensive peace. They are like fire smoldering under ashes; one day it will flare up and burn all our people's hopes and dreams.

Lebanon, which in the past paid dearly for the causes of our Arab nation and for comprehensive Arab solidarity, will not be compliant today. It will not retreat or submit to blackmail. [applause] Its fate is once again to confront them. Together with Syria, it is proceeding with the march to restore the Arabs' dignity and complete sovereignty. Let the others try their luck. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Syrian Official Stresses U.S. Peace Stance

JN0110191095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shtawrah—Under the patronage of His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the Committee for Commemorating Staff Major Basil Hafiz al-Asad held a large popular ceremony in the Lebanese township of Shtawrah this morning on the occasion of unveiling the memorial of martyr Staff Major Engineer paratrooper Basil Hafiz al-Asad.

Deputizing for President al-Hirawi was Michel al-Murr, Lebanese deputy prime minister and interior minister, whereas Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman deputized for President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Salman said: Gentlemen, allow me on this occasion, which is dear to all of us, to point out that when we in Syria say that our principled position on Lebanon is to preserve its unity—land, people, and institutions—as part of our fraternal relations and of safeguarding Lebanon's role in its Arab environment, we actually emphasize a host of facts which were entrenched in the past two decades.

He added: Halting the internal fighting in the Lebanese arena was the starting point to achieving collective security, which provided the basic condition for national reconciliation and reconstruction of Lebanon. This reconstruction began with rebuilding Lebanon's various constitutional, legislative, government, and national institutions. These institutions collectively constitute the Lebanese fabric in the post-war phase.

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Salman said: The Syrian-Lebanese treaty of fraternity, cooperation, and coordination, which was signed by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi at the People's Palace in Damascus in May 1993, embodies all links, relations, and common interests between the sons of the one people in Syria and Lebanon. The treaty's bases, which serve the interest of both sisterly countries and their future national and pan-Arab work, are crystallized daily in terms of consolidating and promoting our political, economic, social, and cultural relations as well as full coordination on the peace process and adherence to our common constants regarding the implementation of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

He continued: This joint position and coordination made the Syrian and Lebanese tracks basic ones in terms of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This has prevented the departure from the bases of the peace process, which was unleashed in Madrid, and it also increased the interest of both cosponsors in the Lebanese track and in its parallelism [talazumih] with the Syrian track.

Salman said: Within this context, we reiterate that our peace option is a strategic one. We supported and backed the U.S. initiative since it was announced. We also support every effective approach by the cosponsors of the peace process, Europe, and the international community toward achieving the objective of real peace away from the Israeli terms which seek to achieve special gains on the pretext of security.

He added: Ending the stalemate on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks requires Israeli acknowledgement of the principle of exchanging land for peace and of not acquiring others' territories by force, and consequently, of withdrawing to the 4 June 1967 borders on the Golan. This also requires regaining full Lebanese sovereignty over the occupied southern Lebanon. He said: We appreciate every effort made to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Israel Reportedly Confiscates Maronite Land

NC2909174995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has stated that Israel has leveled a piece of land near its borders with Lebanon. It is adjacent to another piece of land which Israel annexed four years ago. Goksel said that after receiving a complaint from the Maronite Bishopric in Tyre, the UN observers registered that Israel had leveled 20,000 square meters of land for unknown reasons.

The Maronite Bishopric in Tyre yesterday lodged a complaint with the United Nations accusing Israel of trying to seize 10 hectares of land belonging to the Maronite church by changing the demarcation of its borders with Lebanon. The Bishopric said that Israel brought barbed wire two days ago to confiscate the land between al-Duhayrah and Bitshay on the western borders with Israel. The Bishopric added that the Israeli bulldozers had earlier leveled the land which was planted with olive trees. The trees were destroyed by arson last month, according to the Bishopric.

Government To Boycott Meeting

NC3009173295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi has called on the government to file a complaint over Israel's confiscation of property owned by the Maronite bishopric in the south. He stressed that there can be no peace without Lebanon and Syria joining it, or without the Palestinian and Arab historical rights being considered.

The minister announced that Lebanon will not participate in the public transport conference in Jordan because Israel is participating in it.

He repeated his views that extending the term of the president is necessary for the continuation of the state at an important juncture in view of the impending developments in the region.

Al-Hariri Affirms Government To Resign 24 Nov

NC3009122595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Emerging from Government House this morning, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri was asked about the fate of the government if the presidential term is extended. He said: The government, in any case, will resign on 24 November so that we will not get involved in a political controversy over this subject.

Prime Minister al-Hariri then left for B'abda Palace to have lunch with President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

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'Palestine Broadcast' Comments on Taba Accord

JN2909185095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic, during its daily 1530-1630 GMT "Palestine Broadcast" on 28 and 29 September, carries the following features dealing with the Taba agreement:

On 28 September, the six-minute "Talk of the Return" feature carried on "Palestine Broadcast" says that since the initialing of the Taba agreement on 24 September, there has been an escalating "propaganda show" which will culminate in the signing of this "ominous agreement" in Washington on 28 September. The program expresses astonishment that those who welcomed the agreement did so as soon as the agreement was initialed, although nothing was published then of this 450-page agreement. The program attributes this to the fact that the agreement is line with the interests of those who welcomed it. The program maintains that real peace must be based on UN Security Council resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories. The program maintains that the Palestinians are aware of the difference between peace and capitulation, and that Israeli colonialism cannot be regarded as peace.

A subsequent two-minute report says of the Taba agreement: "The clauses that have been disclosed reveal the extent of the benefits that have been achieved and the fruits reaped by Israel as a result of this agreement. According to this agreement, Israel will maintain its supervision over the West Bank and the roads and crossings will remain under its control. The agreement maintains the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the presence of 400 settlers amid 150,000 Palestinians in Hebron. The agreement does not resolve completely the question of electricity and water and does not deal with the issue of Jerusalem and settlements. Thus, as is clear from the clauses of the Taba agreement, which is an extension of the Oslo agreement, the agreement does not achieve the Palestinian Arab people's national rights and does not meet our people's aspirations for repatriation, liberation, and the right to self-determination."

On 29 September "Palestine Broadcast" program's first feature was the 4-minute "Talk of the Return." The program says the Taba agreement did not meet the aspirations of the Palestinian people. It allowed the settlers to stay in Hebron to continue their actions against Arab citizens. The program adds that the agreement kept 70 percent of West Bank under Israeli rule. It says that the Palestinian people did not gain anything from the agreement but they lost much. It adds that the agreement will not contribute to security and peace in the region and says Partial and separate agreements cannot realize security and stability. It also says that after the Oslo and Cairo agreements "the martyrdom operations continued in the occupied Arab territories, and reached deep into occupied Palestine of 1948. Fierce confrontations and clashes also continued between Arab citizens and the occupation forces and the Israeli settlers." It says there is no peace with the continuation of occupation and settlements. It concludes by saying: "Just and comprehensive peace is realized only when Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territories on all fronts, and when it removes all settlements from these territories."

This feature was followed by a 1.5-minute program on the same subject. It says: "The Palestinian political, popular and patriotic forces and the Arab and international media continued to condemn and denounce the Taba Agreement between the self-rule authority and Israel." The program then refers to a comment by Tunis-based AL-SABAH which says the agreement is even worse than the Oslo agreement as a result of Israeli intransigence. It then refers to comments by the London GUARDIAN which expressed pessimism about the agreement and reviewed its faults. The program then cites a REUTER report on economic dimensions of the agreement.

A three-minute program then followed noting that the agreement was signed on 28 September and that on the corresponding date in 1961 the separation of the unity of Egypt and Syria took place. It also noted that on 28 September 1970, former Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir died. The program cited chief editor of Cairo AL-AHRAR as saying that he does not believe that the anniversary of 'Abd-al-Nasir's death and the signing of the agreement was a coincidence.

Obstacles to Implementation of Peace Accord Viewed

JN3009113395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The West Bank—The first obstacle to implementing the agreement to expand the Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank emerged less than 24 hours after signing the agreement in Washington, when Israel yesterday announced that it will delay the release of some 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Meanwhile, the date of the Israeli troops' redeployment in the West Bank is still ambiguous. The limited self-rule authority stressed that the redeployment would start after around 10 days.

Sufyan Abu-Zaydah, member of the committee tasked with the file of the Palestinian prisoners, said: We may

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understand a delay until Sunday, but we think that a delay until Thursday is unacceptable.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel plans to withdraw from six West Bank towns by the end of this year. But he did not set a date for the completion of withdrawal. Rabin refused to specify a date for the withdrawal, saying: I have made a promise to the settlers not to withdraw from Ramallah and Bethlehem before arriving at a suitable agreement regarding their evacuation.

In a related development, an Israeli official yesterday said that Israel has postponed the release of some 1,000 Palestinian prisoners who were scheduled to be freed after the signing of the agreement on extending the self-rule to other parts of the West Bank, which was signed last Thursday.

The official said the prisoners will not be released today, Saturday, adding that the decision on who will be released and when must be taken at the highest levels.

Regarding the Israeli army redeployment, he said: We still do not know when it will start. No specific date has been set for the redeployment.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said 'Arafat has the right to dream of a Palestinian state, but our agreement with him is not one about dreams, but realities.

Ramzi Rabah, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Political Bureau and member of the Palestine National Council, said the Taba Agreement includes several major concessions, and relinquishes the Palestinian people's national rights. In an interview with the BBC Radio yesterday, Rabah added that according to this agreement, Israel was able to reorganize its occupation of the Palestinian territory in a manner that suits its basic interests. He said: With this agreement, Israel has confirmed its control over the land, waters, and borders and its overall responsibility for security.

He noted that the agreement has turned the occupied West Bank towns and villages into separate, isolated centers, surrounded by Israeli settlements, posts, and circle roads. This agreement has also forsaken the Palestinian people's right to the occupied homeland, to the right of self-determination, and to the right to return to their homeland. It also left Hebron under Israeli control and at the mercy of settlers. It further annulled Jerusalem and prevented its residents from participating in any of their rights.

Norway's Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal said that the ordinary Israelis and Palestinians do not share the confidence and understanding that is developing among the leaders of Israel and the self-rule authority. Godal told journalists that it is now clear that the confidence and understanding reached among the political leaders have not yet been transferred to the ordinary people in the Palestinian and Israeli areas. Godal stressed that for thousands of Palestinians, peace with Israel is no more than a piece of paper with something written on it.

In the meantime, Palestinian citizens demonstrated in Tyre, South Lebanon, to protest the signing by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian limited self-rule authority, of an agreement with Israel that would keep the occupation troops in the occupied West Bank. Demonstrators staged a sit-in outside the UN offices in the city after they handed over to officials there a memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in which they demanded resolving the Palestine question in accordance with the UN resolutions that guarantee the right to repatriation for 4 million Palestinians living outside the occupied territories.

Opposition to Oslo-2 Agreement Noted

JN3009083095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the Middle East peace process following the signing of the Oslo-2 Agreement. The paper says: As the halls and gardens of the White House were standing witness to the signing of this agreement, our people in Hebron and the entire West Bank were staging a strike and confronting the occupation troops.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the Palestinian popular and organizations' opposition to the agreement, and even the opposition by the Palestinian institutions, was greater than that expected by the signatories to the agreement. The paper says: Sadness was observed everywhere because the people did not know the nature of the agreement, which will legitimatize Israel's occupation of Palestine. The self-rule authority got only 18 percent of control over the territory and 13 percent of the various powers, exercised previously by the civilian administration. Everything else remained in Israel's hand.

AL-THAWRAH notes the U.S. statements on peace which will be incomplete without Syria and Lebanon, as stated by U.S. President Clinton. AL-THAWRAH urges President Clinton to implement this statement practically. It says: Unless the United States forces Israel to return to the peace process in a serious and dedicated manner, we do not think that the peace process will be complete, as stated by the U.S. president.

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AL-THAWRAH specifies the clear road to peace. Israel must be forced to abide by the requirements of this peace; namely, complete and full withdrawal to the 4 June lines and withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: If the United States does not force Israel to abide by these requirements — and it is capable of doing so — the peace process will continue to mark time until President Clinton fulfills his commitments and repeated promises to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region, and until he stops Israel from continuing its maneuver and deception. Otherwise, it will keep the peace process in the labyrinth, in which it has been since the Madrid Conference .

Commentary Discourages 'Partial' Agreements

JN3009152595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: When the lights are turned off, when the brouhaha fades away, and when the celebrations come to an end, the question will be raised again: Did or will the partial, inequitable agreements lead to peace and stability in the region? Perhaps, the answer will not be difficult. We say this in light of the events and developments that followed the signing of the first Oslo agreement and also in light of U.S. President Clinton's statements to the effect that peace will not be complete without Syria and Lebanon. This gives the U.S. signals on the need for intensifying efforts to prick the Syrian-Israeli track [20-second break in transmission] about the efforts exerted to achieve it.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration realizes that no just or comprehensive peace that can lead to stability in the region can be attained without Syria. Experience has proved that separate agreements neither usher in peace nor ensure stability and security. The U.S. Administration, which undertook great efforts to prod the peace march, realizes that land is the essence of peace and that any agreement that does not return land and rights to their owners cannot withstand developments and the deep-rooted elements of conflict, which have been aggravated by bloody chapters.

Based on this, as it listens to the U.S. talk about the resumption of efforts to restore momentum on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, Syria hopes that the U.S. Administration will do something that would help extract the peace process from the Israeli impasse through overcoming the Israeli obstacles and effecting a change [40-second break in transmission] and saying something and doing something to the contrary and proposing something and abiding by its opposite in a hackneyed game that led to nothing more than squandering time and efforts.

Israel is always required to respond to the foundations of peace, foremost of which are relevant Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Here, we must remind the U.S. sponsor that Israel is responsible for miring the peace process under weak pretexts that should have been terminated by the set of understandings on the framework of security arrangements through commitment to the principle of equality, parallelism, and equitability in everything. It should be emphasized that the principle of Syria's full sovereignty over its land should not be violated.

In light of talk about the resumption of U.S. efforts to activate the Syrian-Israeli track, all observers who have been following the lengthy peace process assert that the hope for advancing the peace process will continue to hinge on the activation of the U.S. role to arrive at concrete results and not only to move talks. Israel has many blocking and maneuvering ways. If Israel does not make a decision in favor of peace and does not commit itself to the requirements of peace, it will be able to circumvent efforts, abort hope, waste the opportune peace chance, and bring all possibilities to the region.

Defense Minister: Oslo-2 Accord 'Surrender'

JN0110204695 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, has opened a senior staff course at the Higher Military Academy. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest, Lt. Gen. Talas met with officers taking part in the course and conveyed the greetings and best wishes of President Hafiz al-Asad. He spoke about the importance of science in achieving superiority in all areas, stressed the need for persistent training and work, and urged them to raise the level of vigilance in our Armed Forces and to do their best during the course.

He added: We are opening this course while celebrating the glories of the 22d anniversary of the October war of liberation, which was led bravely by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. Our Armed Forces destroyed the myth of the insurmountable Israeli Army, scored victory, and restored the Arab nation's dignity and pride.

He then tackled the peace process in the region, as well as recent developments in the Arab and international arenas, asserting that the second Oslo agreement is one of surrender. He also denounced the agreement and

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showed its negative aspects and its danger to the Arab cause, the cause of Palestine.

Lt. Gen Talas, representative of the commander in chief, stressed the firm, principled Syrian Arab position on the peace process, as well as Syria's commitment to a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. He added that Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad will not accept any peace that will not restore the land and the rights. Syria will not relinquish one particle of the soil of the homeland. He said that Syria will continue to represent the front of Arab steadfastness in the face of all challenges.

Concluding, he voiced love and loyalty to leader al-Asad and pledged to his excellency, in his name and on behalf of the Armed Forces, to remain his loyal soldiers under his wise and courageous leadership and in his victorious march. At the end of the ceremony, he and his companions were accorded a warm farewell.

Radio Cites Rabin: 'Arafat 'May Be a Jew'

JN2909202995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington today.

Rabin held a separate and an unscheduled meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian self-rule authority, at the White House following the signing of the agreement on expanding the self-rule.

In a speech at a reception in a Washington Museum after signing the agreement, Rabin said he began to wonder whether Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian limited self-rule authority, is a Jew.

Rabin began his remark by addressing the guests and reporters around him saying: In our Jewish heritage there is a saying which says that the Jews' sport is oratory.

After a pause, he said with much seriousness while addressing 'Arafat: President 'Arafat, I began to think that you may be a Jew.

All burst into laughter and all presidents, including 'Arafat himself, applauded, but Rabin remained serious.

Amman Anti-Normalization Conference Viewed

JN0110164495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Milhim al-Tall, secretary general of the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party, has said that the preparatory committee's success in holding the Jordanian popular conference for safeguarding the homeland and confronting normalization in Amman was a great victory for the people's will and their insistence on rejecting normalization and protecting Jordan against the requirements of the Wadi al-'Arabah treaty.

Al-Tall, spokesman for the conference, which was held in Amman on 29 September, said: The stand of Irbid in steadfast northern Jordan against the visit of the Israeli ambassador in Amman proves that the popular conference, which was held yesterday, represents the majority of the people. He said this also proves that the people are aware of the dangers of separate solutions and the consequences of the Wadi al-'Arabah and Oslo agreements and the recent Taba agreement, especially since these agreements have not achieved peace, because peace will not be achieved unless each party attains its rights according to the international legitimacy.

He said: The members of the conference reviewed the threats posed to Jordan in particular and the Arabs in general by the Amman economic summit, which is an extension of the Casablanca summit. The Amman summit aims to find the mechanism and projects for including our country in the Middle East regional plan, which achieves Israeli interests and places our economy under the hegemony of the Israeli occupiers through so-called joint projects.

In his statement yesterday, al-Tall continued: The conferees have declared their solidarity with sisterly Syria and Lebanon in confronting Israel's intransigence and arrogance. They voiced their support for a clear Syrian Arab stand on the inevitability of full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and lifting the siege imposed on Lebanese ports.

He added: The conference has highly appreciated the refusal of Syria and Lebanon to join the multilateral negotiations, because these negotiations mean nothing but full normalization with Israel. He went on: The conference hailed the valiant resistance in southern Lebanon and the Palestinian people's struggle against the occupation. He said the conference made it clear that pan-Arab action is the alternative that should be pursued to confront the policy of separate solutions and to restore the usurped Arab rights. He explained that the conference has decided to set the required mechanisms to implement the adopted decisions. He said the higher committee and its political bureau, set up by the conference, will be responsible for holding periodic meetings and coordinating the required activities to ensure the implementation of the decisions to resist normalization and safeguard Jordan against the effects and dangers of normalization.

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U.S. Secretary of State To Meet Foreign Minister

JN3009062195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—The U.S. State Department has announced that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet on Monday [2 October] with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

In statements yesterday, U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said Christopher will embark on a Middle East tour, most likely in late October.

The spokesman stressed that Christopher and Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, will devote themselves to peace file of this region over the next few weeks. [sentence as heard]

Stronger U.S. Role Urged in Influencing Israel

JN0110180995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Even before celebrations of the signing in Washington of the Taba agreement ended—an agreement that links the Palestinians' fate with the unknown—and before the ink on that treaty was dry, statements by Israeli officials about the Syrian track and the possibility of an agreement before or after Israeli elections were on the upswing.

Anyone who follows the statements of the Israeli officials, regardless of their affiliation, can see that these statements continue to be far from the legitimacy and justice that ends the continuous struggle and lays the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace for all peoples of the region. Some Israeli officials returned to express opposition to full withdrawal from the Golan. Some of them tried to defend Rabin's government and the obstacles it placed on the Syrian track, as well as its backtracking on the agreement on security arrangements—which was concluded with the participation and sponsorship of the U.S. Administration. That agreement calls for parallelism [tawazi], equality [musawah], and respect for the sovereignty and sanctity of Syrian lands.

We conclude from this that the Israeli Government is not serious about seeking real peace based on international legitimacy and commitment to exchanging land for peace. The continuous maneuvers and impossible conditions are some of the main features of Israel, as observers have realized from the long negotiations. Peace in accordance with the Madrid conference and the U.S. initiative and on the basis of the UN law and the U.S. initiative is not the peace for which the Israeli leaders are laboring. In their view, peace is an entrenchment of their violation of the international laws and charters and an emphasis of their occupation of Arab territories.

The Taba agreement, whose ink is not yet dry, is fresh evidence of the intentions of Israeli leaders to empty peace of its contents. The anger and mourning shown by the Palestinians at present are the best manifestation of the feelings of disappointment with an agreement that was presented to them as a fait accompli, and that only includes ambiguous pages, delayed promises, and articles that have placed Palestinian security and water in the hands of Israelis, in addition to lending legitimacy to the Israeli presence in Hebron and West Bank cities. What kind of peace is manifested by an agreement whose signing was accompanied and followed by Israeli military siege tactics imposed on the Palestinian people? The self-rule areas continue to be separated by fully armed settlements, and the occupation's control of more than 85 percent of the West Bank has been consolidated. This is the Israeli concept of peace as is clear on the ground and as seen from Taba and its results.

As for the peace Syria wants, it is a peace in line with UN resolutions, meeting the desire of international consensus, and laying the foundations of Middle Eastern security in accordance with the conditions of justice and legitimacy included in the Security Council resolutions, and ensuring safety and stability for all peoples of the region.

It has become clear that the continuous tension and disturbances in the occupied territories cannot be considered to be anticipated peace at all. Justice and attainment of the rights and dignities of all are the conditions of real peace and what guarantee it. The resolutions of international legitimacy on which the peace process was based guarantee the rights and security of all parties if the parties commit themselves to implementing them fully—without maneuvers or forced interpretations. Israel is accustomed to evading the terms of references of these resolutions and and commitment to implement them. The resulting Oslo and Taba agreements are clear evidence of Israel's efforts to evade the principles of the peace process and circumvent the facts of peace.

On the other hand, Syria was very clear when it rejected any deviation from the principle of exchanging land for peace and committed itself to UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which govern the peace process. The U.S. Administration and all those concerned with the peace process are aware that peace cannot be realized if it does not include Syria and Lebanon . This was what President Clinton and the U.S. officials emphasized.

The cosponsors of the peace process have valued Syria's efforts to overcome the obstacles and open the way for the success of the peace process on the

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basis of justice and comprehensiveness. However, Israel erects obstacles and evades the requirements of peace—without which peace cannot be realized.

In light of the new U.S. talk about nudging the peace process forward on the Syrian track, we should emphasize the need to activate the U.S. role as a sponsor and partner that pushes all parties commit themselves to the principles of the peace process and meet its requirements. It is known to all that Syria has always been for these principles and the requirements of just peace. This means that Israel is the one that has ducked the principles of peace and rebelled against them, and it continues to maneuver in order to empty peace of its true contents, which are returning the land and securing rights—without which the aspired-for peace cannot be realized.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Discusses Peace Efforts With UN Envoy

LD0110171195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], this afternoon received Mahmud Mestiri, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Afghanistan at the presidential headquarters. The presidential press office reported to BAKHTAR that during the meeting Mestiri expressed the hope that peace and security would be ensured across Afghanistan very soon.

Appreciating the efforts of the UN's secretary general's special envoy, President Rabbani, in connection with the Afghan problem said: Because the ISA's strategy is based on negotiation and understanding, the state is ready to resolve its problem with all involved sides through talks and understanding in order to ensure peace and security in Afghanistan very soon, and in order for the people of Afghanistan to live in an atmosphere of peace and security and to embark on the reconstruction of the ruins of their war- stricken country.

According to another report, Mestiri arrived in Kabul today. The information department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported to BAKHTAR that he was received by the head of the protocol department and a number of other Foreign Ministry officials at Kabul International. During his stay in Kabul Mestiri met Afghanistan's high-ranking authorities and held talks with them.

Dostam Movement Rejects Government Offer of Talks

LD2909202395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Northern National Movement of Afghanistan [led by General 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam] has rejected the proposal made yesterday by the government offering talks. A representative of General Dostam said that the only way for the ending of fighting and finding a solution to the Afghanistan's problem is the resignation of the president of Afghanistan and withdrawal of his forces from Kabul.

The presidential spokesman of Afghanistan announced on Wednesday [27 September] that the government is ready to hold talks with all rival groups to find a solution to the problem of Afghanistan.

Rabbani Condemns Taleban, Sees Shari'ah as Answer

LD3009222495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1640 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani to clergy in Kabul on 30 September; monitored in progress — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ...[Passage indistinct] The Pakistani nation is a Muslim and fraternal nation, and we do not want to distance ourself from them, neither do they. The Afghan nation will never forget what the Pakistani nation and its brave politicians did during jihad. [Words indistinct] There has been no change in the attitude of Pakistanis. The people, who conducted Pakistan's diplomacy and politics yesterday, accepted all kinds of dangers and threats but stood by us. But today there are certain circles in Pakistan [words indistinct]. Certain circles in Pakistan resort to illicit acts and conspiracies against Muslims and against the wishes of the peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan. We are confident that the conspiracies will fail.

Another issue, which you also mentioned, is the Taleban. If someone is really a Taleb [religious student], he should organize all his conducts in keeping with the Islamic Shari'ah. First of all they should ask themselves which of their acts are in line with Islam and which are not. You know that when this movement was launched — alas, many movements are very deceptive in their appearance and behind the scene unclean hands are leading them. When the Islamic state heard that a group of people want to launch a campaign against vice, we said no matter who they were we would support them. We said that even if they acted against our provincial administrations we would back them. We would not support our governors, corps commanders, and division commanders against those who were conducting a campaign against vice and for the introduction of Shari'ah.

[Words indistinct] it is now very clear that this movement is 100 percent anti-Islamic and anti-Muslim. The enemies of Islam thought that after the fall of communism, they should use a number of people in the guise of Islam, namely the Taleban, to crush Islam. You know that they perpetrate all perceivable non-Islamic acts. The vices they claimed they were fighting against are now being committed by them in mosques. The people of Maydan complain that previously if a crime was committed it was not in a mosque but now they do not respect even the mosques. Never have so many people been killed before. The Taleban have slaughtered hundreds of people and dumped their bodies in fields. Which Islamic tenet allows them to act as they do?

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Their war is against the mojahedin and the jihadi organizations. They have never said that they are fighting against the infidels and atheists.

The Islamic State many a time tried through ulema — even some of the ulema who were thought to have studied in the same seminaries as the Taleban have, to make them sit with us so that we learn about their demands. But they [Taleban] were not directly ready for this. We sent ulema to talk to them about resolving the problems on the basis of Shari'ah but because they did not believe in Shari'ah — even some of them said that they were not concerned with Shari'ah; the government should surrender its weapons. We notice that they hold negotiations even with the hypocrites and the enemies of Islam and conclude agreements with them but refuse to talk with the Muslims. [passage omitted] On the basis of the Prophet's hadith they should be killed anywhere they are met and you will be rewarded for this on the day of judgement. [passage omitted]

The policy of the Islamic State has been to resolve all problems through peaceful means, negotiations, and without fighting. So far as I am concerned, I have on several occasions said that the office of president was not the personal property of a specific person, no one has inherited it. It belongs to the people of Afghanistan. There is no impediment on the part of the government about who the people elect and when the conditions are made suitable for this to happen. We told the opposition many times that, if they really had good intentions and did not want sedition and were not hired by the enemies of Islam, they should realize that they could not resolve any problem through fighting. It would be better for us to resolve all problems through talks and understanding and through bringing together the representatives of the people in order for them to decide about this matter. It will be up to them to decide whom they entrust with this responsibility.

We have asked the hireling Taleban, who perpetrate non-Islamic acts, and the other groups to show readiness for talks instead of fighting. When a council of the people will come into being, surely, they can make decisions about all issues and can appoint as the president of the state anyone they want to [words indistinct]. It will enjoy our support. [passage omitted]

In connection with the restoration of peace and security, I call on all opposition groups to come forward [words indistinct] to let the problems be resolved through Shari'ah instead of fighting. After the settlement and resolution council I suggested that we should refer all issues including Hekmatyar's demands to a panel of the ulema, who would pass a decision whether or not the settlement and resolution council was in line with Shari'ah. If they said it was according to Shari'ah we should accept it. We should refer everything to Shari'ah and see what the Shari'ah orders. We suggest the formation of a convention of the ulema from the country and from other countries to make a decision about problems. So far as the state is concerned, we are ready to accept any decision they will make and we hope the others will also accept it. If the Taleban were really religious students they should have proposed this. [passage omitted]

Taleban Reportedly Prepared To Attack Kabul

BK3009164195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Sept 30 (AFP) — Fighting was going on west of Kabul Saturday [30 September] between a Shiite faction loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the Taleban Islamic movement, according to the official defence ministry spokesman.

The fighting is located in Sanglakh, a strategic valley occupied by the pro-Rabbani Shiite Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] faction. Sanglakh is situated less than 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of the Taleban-controlled provincial capital Maydan Shahr.

The spokesman said the Taleban attacked Sanglakh Friday, made some initial gains, but had been pushed back again.

Sanglakh is located close to Paghman, the headquarters of Rabbani's only major Pushtun ally, Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] faction leader Rasul Sayyaf. The spokesman denied press reports that Paghman has fallen to the Taleban.

"I can assure you one hundred percent Paghman has not fallen to the Taleban," he stressed.

If Paghman, which lies over a mountain range to the north of Sanglakh, fell to the Taleban they would be well inside the main security belts established by Rabbani's topgun, ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and within easy striking distance of the heart of Kabul.

From their Maydan Shahr base, some 40 kilometres (24 miles) southwest of Kabul, the Taleban have dug-in along a frontline from which they have threatened the imminent capture of the Afghan capital, but as yet have launched no major offensive.

There was sporadic shelling and small-arms fire on the second main Taleban frontline, 45 kilometres to the south of Kabul, near the district centre of Mohammad Agha in Lowgar province, but this is a daily occurence and there was no extraordinary military activity.

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The senior Taleban military commander for Lowgar, Mullah Abdul Malik, told AFP the religious movement had completed its preparations to attack Kabul, and were only waiting for orders from their supreme shoora (ruling council).

"It will be a sudden attack that will break the spirit of Rabbani and Mas'ud," Mullah Malik said.

Jihadi Leader Reportedly Assassinated in Faryab

LD2909174095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sadly we have received a report that yesterday an attempt was made on the life of Mowlawi Sayd Mohammad Yusof, jihadi leader [amir] of Faryab, and he was martyred. Verily we come from God and to whom we return.

Martyred Mowlawi Sayd Mohammad Yusof was a well-known scholar of the jihad period and an outstanding personality who was cowardly attacked by unknown persons and martyred. He was 43. The country's security authorities are engaged in an intensive investigation of the case.

Pakistan Circles Said Seeking 'Puppet Government'

LD2909194695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The final round of the Esteqlal football cup games was opened today in the Kabul athletic stadium. The army sport club team played against the national security team. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Mohammad Yunos Qanuni, general head of the army political affairs and head of the Kabul city security commission, then spoke on the country's current situation. He said: Specific Pakistani circles want in Afghanistan a servant puppet government which is installed by them. This evil wish on their part was clearly understood after the formation of the Islamic government. He added: Pakistan's intelligence service has thus far unleashed eight major conspiracies to defeat the Islamic regime which, with the blessing of God, have all failed. They then brought on the scene another mercenary group named Taleb. This conspiracy on their part was foiled at the first instance and their defeat vis-a-vis the Islamic army was proven to the world.

As a result of the conspiracy and direct participation of their militia in the fighting against the Islamic sovereignty, the intelligence service and the bosses of Pakistan managed to occupy some regions in the southwestern region. You will hear the news of their defeat in these regions, God willing.

In his talk esteemed Qanuni gave assurances to the people of Kabul and said: The enemy has been completely driven out of Kabul city and the security belts of Kabul are all ready to defend Kabul against every enemy aggression. He said: The so-called Taleban group has never succeeded in capturing anywhere by fighting. They have occupied localities by hatching conspiracies and through the open assistance of the Pakistani militia. But this method of approach was not effective in Kabul Province. They have no ability to face the Islamic army and the country's brave mojahedin.

The exciting bootball game was watched by esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud [former defense minister]; esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Ustad Akbari, head of the political committee of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], some cabinet members, a leadership delegation of the Ministry of Defense and National Security Department; a number of generals of the Islamic Army and a large crowd of Kabul citizens. The result of the game will subsequently be announced.

Pakistan Repairs Taleban's Telephone System

LD3009175895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has reactivated the telephone system for Taleban in Afghanistan.

Under this headline, "Jomhuri-ye Eslami" newspaper adds: After reactivating the telephone system in Qandahar, Ghazni, and Helmand, the Pakistan telecommunication company has now sent its personnel to Herat for the reactivation of telephone system in this province.

India

Rao's View of 'First' Regional Arms Race Reported

MS0210092395 London THE TIMES in English 2 Oct 95 p 15

[Report on interview with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao by Richard Owen and Christopher Thomas at his official Delhi residence on 1 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, said yesterday that the decision of the United States Senate to allow the sale of weapons to Pakistan could trigger the first arms race in South Asia since the end of the Cold War.

Mr Rao, 74, speaking at his official Delhi residence, said he hoped tensions with Pakistan over Kashmir — the cause of two Indo-Pakistan wars — could be contained. His comments came at a time of severe cross-border strains, with Delhi accusing Islamabad of waging a proxy war by backing Kashmiri Muslim separatists.

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Since their last war in 1965, both countries have developed nuclear capability, and there are reports that India may deploy its own surface-to-surface missiles: the Prithvi, with a range of up to 175 miles, and the Agni. The Prithvi would be suitable for deployment along the border with Pakistan, while the Agni, with a range of 1,200-1,500 miles, could reach deep into China.

American arms supplies to Pakistan were halted in 1990 over Islamabad's nuclear programme, but last month the Senate authorised the sale of $370 million (234 million pounds) of weapons and spare parts.

The Prime Minister indicated that he was not ready to decide on a firm date for state elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the first since 1987. This could mean that the unofficial target date of holding polls in December could be missed, forcing Delhi to ask parliament to renew direct rule when authority expires the following month. There has been speculation that armed militancy will make early polls impossible. "Nobody is forcing me to hold elections (in Kashmir)," Mr Rao said. He rejected suggestions that polls in the state would lack credibility, given that voter turnout in parts of the Kashmir Valley might be less than 5 per cent. "I have no doubt that (voter) turnout will prove this to be a credible election," he insisted.

Mr Rao, who has led the Congress party since the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, has ended decades of economic isolation in a series of reforms over the past four years and has opened much of the economy to international competition. He insisted that India had not abandoned socialism, which was enshrined in the Constitution, but had modified it to conform to "present realities".

There was now broad political consensus on pressing ahead with the reforms. Stability of the policy was ensured. He was aware of the dancer that the reforms could create Latin American-style disparities of wealth and poverty and added, smiling: "That is one reason why I do not expect it to happen."

Mr Rao, a farmer from the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, was regarded as a stopgap leader when he came to power after the 1991 election. He has surprised Indians with his staying power and political acumen, however, and appeared relaxed, cracking jokes about his election chances next year compared to those of John Major.

Some senior Congress politicians still hanker after the aura of the Gandhi name, and were electrified last month when Sonia Gandhi, Rajiv's Italian-born widow, indirectly attacked Mr Rao over the slow pace of investigations into her husband's assassination. But Mr Rao played down the prospect of her supporting a leadership challenge.

He saw dangers in the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu nationalist organisation regarded by many as a threat to India's secularism. "The rise of a single political party cannot become a threat (to secularism)," he argued. "What can and will happen (because of) the BJP is that a lot of religious fanaticism and counter-fanaticism will be generated and the normal programme of socio-economic progress could be disrupted."

Mr Rao said cancellation of a $3 billion power project by the American company, Enron, by the BJP-dominated Government in the western state of Maharashtra did not mean cessation of foreign investment. "One swallow does not make a summer," he said.

Mr Rao's Congress is expected to emerge as the biggest party in next year's general election but may fall short of outright victory. That would force it to make deals with smaller parliamentary groups to form a government. Mr Rao made it clear, however, that he opposed a coalition government. He said that the average Indian was not enamoured of such arrangements.

On Indo-British relations, Mr Rao said trade was flourishing and ties were increasingly based on "positive elements" of the two countries' common experience, both during the Raj and after. "This is not the time to go into unpleasant details of the bygone past," he said.

Desire for Peace With Pakistan Conveyed to UN

BK2809133195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has once again told the international community that it desires nothing but peaceful relations with Pakistan. The Indian deputy permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr. Nalin Suri, told the General Assembly that New Delhi has repeatedly called for resuming bilateral dialogue at the highest level but there has been no response from Islamabad. He was responding to the speech of the Pakistani foreign minister, who raised the Kashmir issue.

World Body Urged To Condemn Pakistan 'Terrorism'

BK0110074895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has called upon the international community to condemn Pakistan for encouraging terrorism both at home and abroad. The Indian representative, Ms. Manimekalai, told the UN General

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Assembly that Islamabad is indulging in transborder terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and in Afghanistan, and state-terrorism against ethnic minorities in the Sindh province.

Exercising the right to reply after the Pakistani ambassador made the usual allegation of repression in Jammu and Kashmir, Ms. Manimekalai said Pakistan has no moral right to speak on these issues as Islamabad has turned its armed might against its own people. She said the only impediment to a dialogue between India and Pakistan is Islamabad's continued export of terrorism to India.

Minister Addresses Trade at 'Group of 77' Meeting

BK0110085695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has urged the developing countries to remain united in their efforts to remove restrictions on market access for their commodities and to give technologies needed for development. The call was made by the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, while addressing the Group of 77 developing countries in New York. He said it should be made clear to the developed countries that time has come to evolve a holistic and global approach to the problems of development. He said increased financial resources are required not only to meet the basic needs of the people, but also for environmental sustainability.

Earlier, the external affairs minister held discussions with the Rio Group foreign ministers. It was decided that India and the Rio Group of Latin American countries should strengthen cooperation in economic and other fields.

New Mediators To Negotiate for Kashmir Hostages

BK3009110895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0327 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 30 (AFP) — Indian authorities appointed fresh mediators late Friday [29 September] in a bid to resume snapped contact with the Moslem rebel abductors holding four Western tourists for nearly three months in Kashmir.

An official spokesman, meanwhile, expressed cautious optimism that contact with the Al-Faran rebel group would be resumed over the weekend, adding that intermediaries had said the hostages were "safe."

He gave no details about the new mediators.

The official Crisis Management Group, led by retired lieutenant general D. D. Saklani — an adviser to the Kashmir governor, held an emergency meeting in this state summer capital to review the situation, officials said.

Diplomats from Britain, the United States and Germany were also present at the meeting which discussed the breaking of links with Al-Faran. There has been no contact for more than 10 days.

"This is for the first time in the nearly three-month-old crisis that the militants could not be contacted," spokesman Kulbhushan Jindiyal said. "However, the situation is not alarming.

"They are safe in the custody of the militants who are holding them," he said and hoped the crisis would end peacefully.

Al-Faran militants seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, German Dirk Hasert, 26 and American Donald Hutchings, 42, between July 4 and 8 in the Kashmir hill district of Pahalgam.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was beheaded by the abductors in the first week of August.

Kashmir officials had been in touch with Al-Faran over the radio. The hostages are believed to be safe but sick after being marched at gunpoint from one mountain hideout to another across the Kashmir Valley, dodging thousands of Indian troops.

Indian officials believe Al-Faran is linked to the Harkat-ul- Ansar militant outfit, comprising mainly Afghan guerrillas. The Harkat kidnapped two British trekkers in Kashmir last year but released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when Moslem separatists stepped up a drive against Indian rule. India accuses Pakistan of fomenting militancy in the state but Islamabad denies the charge.

JKLF Rebels Said in Control of 'Holiest' Mosque

BK2909054195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0504 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 29 (AFP) — Heavily armed Moslem militants took control of Kashmir's holiest mosque here on Friday [29 September] as a general strike called by Moslem separatists crippled the strife-torn Kashmir Valley.

Gunmen from a faction of the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) entered the Hazratbal mosque on the outskirts of this Kashmir summer capital and drove away the shrine's dozen employees, police said.

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The unspecified number of guerrillas led by JKLF military commander Basharat Raza took over the revered shrine after the leader of a renegade militant group threatened to hold a public meeting at the mosque, police said.

"Control of the mosque is with Basharat," said a member of the Moslem Auqaf Trust which administers holy places in Kashmir. A similar takeover by Moslem rebels two years ago led to a one-month Indian army siege.

Witnesses said fears of violence kept the faithful away from Hazratbal Friday and a mere dozen people instead of the usual hundreds turned up to perform their morning prayers.

Hazratbal, which has been used for years as a political platform by Kashmiri politicians, houses a whisker which local Moslems believe comes from the beard of the Prophet Mohammed.

Tension has been rising in the thickly populated residential districts around Hazratbal since Kuka Parray, head of the Ikhwan-ul- Muslimoon group, announced his plan to address the Friday congregation at the mosque.

Other Moslem separatist groups have denounced Parray as an Indian agent, a charge he denies.

On Thursday, Indian troops made a house-to-house sweep in the area for militants and hidden weapons, sparking a mass exodus of residents fearing violence between rival Moslem groups on Friday.

Indian troops laid siege to Hazratbal for more than a month in October 1993 to flush out militants holed up inside. The rebels eventually surrendered.

The Moslem-majority Kashmir Valley was virtually paralysed meanwhile by a general strike called by the fundamentalist Jamiat- ul-Mujahedeen to mourn the deaths of 14 Moslem militants killed by Indian troops on Friday.

Offices, banks, stores and schools were shut in this Kashmir summer capital and vehicles went off the roads in response to the strike call, supported by the All-Party Freedom Conference, an umbrella organisation of some 30 Moslem groups opposed to Indian rule over Kashmir.

More than 12,000 people have been killed since 1989 in the Moslem separatist drive in Kashmir, the only Moslem-majority state in predominantly-Hindu India.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the thousands of Moslem guerrillas in Kashmir.

Pakistan denies the charge but provides diplomatic support to what it describes as a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Ruling Bharatiya Janata Party Splits in Gujarat

BK3009101795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gujarat, the ruling BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has split with the expelled dissident leader, Mr. Shankar Sinh Vaghela, submitting a list to the speaker of 54 party MLAs [Members of Legislative Assembly] supporting him in Gandhi Nagar last night. Mr. Vaghela requested the speaker recognize them as the BJP split group. The development comes after Mr. Vaghela was expelled from the party for six years for anti-party activities by the BJP central leadership in Delhi. Mr. Vaghela told newspersons that he has no plan to form a new party in the state. He said he has so far not received any communication from the BJP high command on his expulsion from the party.

Earlier on the day, the chief minister, Keshubhai Patel, maintained that his ministry enjoys a clear majority and he is ready to prove it on the floor of the assembly. He said he will meet the state governor for this purpose. Mr. Patel also said he will undertake a fast at a public place in Ahmadabad.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat Pradesh [State] Congress-I Committee president, Mr. Prabodh Rawal, has demanded the resignation of the Keshubhai Patel ministry. In a statement, he said Mr. Patel has no right to continue as chief minister as he has lost the support of several of his party MLAs.

Radio Reports on BJP Split

BK0110120995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gujarat, five ministers of the Keshubhai Patel ministry have resigned. Our Ahmedabad correspondent reports that they have decided to remain with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] split group led by Mr. Shankar Sinh Vaghela. They are Mr. C.K. Raoji, Mr. Mansukh Vasava, Mr. Mansinh Chauhan, Mr. Jathabhai Barad, and Mr. Khumansinh Rathya. The State Cabinet, meanwhile, is meeting in Gandhinagar this morning to decide the date for convening the assembly. The governor, Mr. Naresh Chandra, had yesterday asked the chief minister, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, to prove his majority in the assembly within a week.

On the dissident front, the rebel leader, Mr. Shankar Sinh Vaghela, has announced the formation of BJP split group and asked the assembly speaker to allot separate seats in the house. He also met the governor and urged him to ensure security to the 49 MLA's [Members of the Legislative Assembly] supporting him. Mr. Keshubhai Patel, on the other hand, claimed that 16 MLA's in the

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dissident camp are willing to return to his fold but are being forcibly detained. According to PTI, the speaker has sent telegrams to all BJP MLA's belonging to the Vaghela group to identify their signatures purportedly signed by them in the list of Mr. Vaghela in person before him.

A Congress-I leader, Mr. Amarsinh Chaudhari, has demanded the resignation of Mr. Keshubhai Patel, following the vertical split in the BJP. The BJP high command on its part has alleged that the Congress-I is trying to destabilize the non-Congress-I government before the Lok Sabha elections. The allegation has been strongly refuted by the Congress-I spokesman as totally baseless.

Radio Reports on Gujarat Developments

BK0110162195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Gujarat Cabinet has recommended to the governor to convene a special session of the assembly on Saturday [30 September] for a trial of strength of the Keshubhai Patel ministry. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held at Gandhinagar today. Twenty-four of 30 ministers attended the meeting. It was decided that a one-line resolution of vote of confidence will be moved in the house. The governor, Mr. Naresh Chandra, has asked the chief minister, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, to prove his majority on the floor of the house by Saturday.

Talking to newsmen this evening, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] central observer, Mr. K.L. Sharma, expressed the confidence that the Keshubhai Patel ministry will win the vote of confidence. The chief minister claimed that one Minister Mr. Mansukh Vasava, who had earlier decided to remain with the BJP split group led by Mr. Shankar Sinh Vaghela, has come back. Mr. Vasava was present at the press conference. On the other hand, Mr. Vaghela has claimed the support of 49 out of 121 BJP MLA's [Members of the Legislative Assembly]. The Congress-I has 45 legislators in the house of 182. The 16 independent MLA's are likely to play a crucial role.

Meanwhile, police fired three rounds in the air to disperse a mob, which pelted stones at the rebel BJP MLA camp at Charada village, 30 km from Gandhinagar. According to reports, a deputy superintendent of police was injured in the stone pelting. The state governor has asked the chief minister to provide protection to all MLA's.

Article Addresses Future Elections, Mandir-Masjid

95AS0477C Varanasi AJ in Hindi 31 Aug 95 p 6

[Article by Shivkumar Agrawal: "The Next Election and the Mandir-Masjid Controversy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Renunciation of the Congress [Party], by Narayan Dutt Tiwari appears to be a hallow act by a seasoned political leader. He is playing the game from outside of the party that he should have played from within the party. This action should be pleasing to both his "friend" Arjun Singh and "foe" Rao, and both gained from it. If anyone suffered it was Tiwari himself.

Arjun Singh was discarded from the Congress by Rao. In the shame of expulsion Arjun Singh wanted some one to be with him. Tiwari filled that spot. The blind got a companion. Renunciation of the Congress by Tiwari was pleasing for Arjun Singh.

The Congress party has always seen separations. But anyone who separated from the Congress could not prosper and vanquished over time. Their disappearance was not an accident. In fact there was only but one reason, and that is that they separated themselves from the hundred year old tree roots which have been irrigated by the blood of martyrs.

The story of prominent leaders like Kriplani, Lohia, Morarji,, Jagjivan Ram, Bahuguna, Chandra Sekhar, and V.P. Singh is not much different. The Congress has an history of supporting anyone who has been friendly to it. Anyone who left it also left politics, and anyone who stayed with it stayed in politics.

Today the Mandal [job reservations based on caste] issue is mute. We are accustomed to corruption. Even burning of a Naina alive in a tandoor oven does not open anyone's eyes. The talk of development does not please us. But the Mandir-masjid issue certainly delights us. Even today we feel pleasure in it. The winds tell us that the upcoming election will be fought in the name of Mandir-masjid. On a national level, Mulayam Singh will give a clarion call to Muslims. On the other hand the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] will convene the Hindus by ringing the bells in the Rama and Krishna temples. The voters divided on the Mandir-masjid issue will move to their respective arenas with the blow of the election horn.

Tiwari Congress will not be able to attract voters either in the name of Mandir or masjid. Tiwariji himself is the foundation layer of the Ram Mandir. Whereas Arjun Singh is busy in seeking the reward from the other group by taking the credit for making them dream about the reconstruction of the Babri Masjid. Their unity

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could have been beneficial for them. Neither will the followers of Ram temple cast their vote in favor of Tiwari Congress nor will the Babri Masjid devotees embrace him.

A member of Congress loves power. There is a saying, "if the beggar gets sweets at a door and if a Congress member gets power then neither will the beggar leave the door nor will the member of Congress depart from the Party." If Tiwari Congress gets no votes how is it going to obtain power. In the absence of power will not the power loving Congress members moan like fish out of the water? The issue is will they be with Tiwari for long?

Arjun's revolt against Rao was at the time of his return to Delhi with a defeat in the Andhra legislative assembly where he had faced a total loss in his own home state. If Tiwariji is not able to do anything in his own Uttar Pradesh will he then not face the opposing voices of his followers like Rao did?

What was Tiwari's issue? It was to merely unseat Mulayam Singh from the Uttar Pradesh chief ministership. Tiwariji is a politician of national status and the problem here belonged to only one of the 22 states. The problem was that the BJP snatched away Bahujan Samaj Party's [BSP] Mayawati as the chief minister right under Tiwari's nose. What does Tiwariji now have? In the politics of votes today Tiwariji can defeat ten BJP and ten Rao Congress seats in the elections. But he cannot win any of his seats. When V.P. Singh had left the Congress, he had brought the Mandal issue and the burning question of Bofors with him. The Mandal issue was connected to a large portion of the society whereas the Bofors issue was tied to large scale corruption at high levels - a corruption that the Indian people experience at every step. V.P. Singh had two miracles but Tiwariji is blank. Why then will the average people follow him.

Tiwariji is slightly supported by Sonia Gandhi, but Sonia herself is on the attack point of the Rao's Bofor issue. If Sonia goes to help Tiwari Rao's guns start firing. Sonia is, therefore, lost. The BJP is also planning against Sonia and the popular slogan will be that Sonia is a foreigner. Therefore, it can merely be a wishful thinking for Tiwariji to swim through the elections with Sonia's name but it may not be practical.

Tiwariji also awaits the end of Mayawati's honeymoon with the BJP. First, this honeymoon is not fragile. Maya has the greed for power and the BJP desires the votes of the scheduled castes. Even if we accept that the BJP-BSP alliance will topple it is sure that Tiwariji will not benefit from it. Agreements are always made between the winner and the stronger of the two. Today in Congress politics Rao happens to be favored by destiny, and is the winner. Tiwariji is like the defeated King Porush. If Kanshi Ram desires to seek a BSP alliance after its break with the BJP it will be with the Rao Congress because at last Kanshi Ram will want to be with Delhi politics whereas Tiwariji is miles away from Delhi.

Iran

China Reportedly Cancels Nuclear Project Deal

MM2909135695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Beijing Cancels Deal To Build Two Nuclear Stations for Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — China has decided to cancel a deal to build two nuclear power stations in Iran, opening the door to a possible diplomatic dispute with Tehran. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen announced the Chinese decision during his recent meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York.

Foreign Ministry sources in Tehran have said that they have not yet received any official notification of the Chinese decision. Experts say that the Chinese decision could mean the total collapse of Iran's nuclear ambitions. As is known, earlier this week Russia announced its backtracking on the deal to build two nuclear power stations in Iran.

Christopher spoke to reporters following his meeting with the Chinese official, welcoming Beijing's decision as a step in the right direction. [passage omitted]

Iranian Foreign Ministry sources expect a "negative impact" on Chinese-Iranian relations if the cancellation of the deal is confirmed officially.

A source who asked to remain anonymous added that the cancellation of the deal could cause Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to cancel an official visit to Beijing scheduled for early next year. The only part of the Iranian nuclear program which is expected to continue is the completion of the Bushehr power station.

Spokesman Denies Disruption

LD2809173595 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, Sept. 28, IRNA — No change has been made in Irano-China peaceful nuclear cooperation, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi announced at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday [28 September].

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Talking to IRNA, Mohammadi referred to the Monday meeting of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly and said no sign of any change had been witnessed in Chinese government's decision for having peaceful nuclear cooperation with Iran. Rather, the Chinese official voiced his respective country's serious determination to have continued scientific and peaceful cooperation with Iran in the said area, said the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Mohammadi added that the Chinese minister in his talks with Velayati had underlined that no country and no international law could ban peaceful nuclear cooperation.

On remarks of an American diplomat on Wednesday after the meeting of Qichen with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on disrupting Iran-China nuclear cooperation, Mohammadi said American diplomats in this same occasion last year employed this same tactic on Iran-Russian nuclear cooperation. However, the trick eventually led to defeat of American policy, he told IRNA.

PRC Official: 'No Reason' To Stop Nuclear Deal

LD3009134895 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 30 (IRNA) — A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Tehran said on Saturday [30 September] that Tehran-Beijing nuclear cooperation was under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and that there exists no reason to stop or cancel the nuclear deal between the two countries.

The embassy spokesman said Iran and China are signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and in accordance with article 4 of the treaty, nuclear states should provide non-nuclear states with their needed technology for peaceful purposes.

He said China does not believe in the proliferation of nuclear arms, nor does it intend to help any country develop nuclear weapons.

China spares no efforts to help promote the Non-Proliferation Treaty, he concluded.

Further on Chinese Stand

NC3009073595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chinese foreign minister stressed in New York last night that the agreement on peaceful nuclear cooperation between Iran and China has not been abrogated. Our correspondent who was dispatched to New York reports on this further:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] A spokesman for the Chinese delegation in New York stated this in an interview. He said there is no reason for the Chinese Government to abrogate its peaceful nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and that no country has the right to prevent other countries from peaceful nuclear cooperation.

Meanwhile, the Chinese foreign minister, who is in New York, also explicitly refuted rumors on the abrogation of his country's nuclear agreement with Iran and underlined the peaceful nuclear cooperation between the two countries.

This is at a time when U.S. diplomats and the regime occupying Jerusalem, who were the main engineers of these rumors, have overtly expressed their rage and aversion in public and have criticized the Chinese Government's decisive stand.

Meanwhile, our Foreign Ministry spokesman in New York stated on the issue that U.S. diplomats had spread similar rumors last year on the abrogation of Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran which were refuted with the Russian Government's explicit statement.

Report by the group dispatched by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 50th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. [end recording]

U.S. Remarks on Tehran-Chinese Nuclear Ties Viewed

Radio Views 'U.S. False Propaganda'

LD3009155195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen announced in New York on September 29 that his country has temporarily suspended the construction of two atomic reactors in Iran because the first site elected for execution of the project was not suitable. The remarks of the Chinese foreign minister are in fact a clear response to the recent statements made by some White House officials who had claimed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had dissuaded Beijing from continuing nuclear cooperation with Iran within the framework of his talks with the Chinese foreign minister. This is not the first time that the U.S. disruptive policies towards Iran-China relations have been disclosed. Washington authorities have made great efforts in the past three years to mount political and propaganda pressures to dissuade Beijing from continuing nuclear cooperation with Tehran but they have not achieved

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their goals. At the present juncture, the remarks of the Chinese foreign minister underlines the point that any propaganda exploitation of an alleged cancellation of Tehran- Beijing cooperation contract for construction of nuclear plant by the United States is a baseless claim. In fact the employment of the term cancellation is self made. What is certain is that from the viewpoint of China, Beijing-Tehran cooperation, especially in the areas of peaceful use of nuclear energy is the definite right of the two countries. No international law bans countries from such cooperation; and Iran and China are both members of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Chinese foreign minister previously held a meeting with Iran's foreign minister on the sidelines of the session of the UN General Assembly and stressed this position, saying that the propaganda made by some countries against Iran-China cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy is baseless and feudal.

From the viewpoint of political analysts the efforts of the U.S. officials on the sideline of the UN General Assembly session for achievement of their biased political and propaganda goals against the Islamic Republic of Iran is something which they have experienced last year in relation to Iran-Russia cooperation. The U.S. efforts have finally led to their own failure and disdain.

At present, too, the U.S. disruptive policy in Tehran-Beijing relations is a feudal repetition of a failed experience. This feeling was revealed after the outspoken remarks of Chinese foreign minister and the removal of some ambiguities stemming from the U.S. false propaganda in this respect.

TV Views Christopher's 'Madness'

LD3009181795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1554 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the height of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war and at a time when combatants of Islam had stopped the enemy in its tracks, and the U.S. conspiracies were being aimed at the Islamic revolution, the innocent martyr, Dr. [Mohammad] Beheshti, addressing the White House ringleaders, said: Be angry with us, America; and die of it!

Now, after the passage of more than a decade, as a result of the Islamic Republic of Iran's advances and initiatives, the U.S. ruling group and particularly that country's secretary of state are infuriated with Iran to the point of madness; so much so that, by ignoring the most basic diplomatic norms, they have turned the UN General Assembly to an arena of confrontation against Iran.

During the Carter's presidency, when the Islamic revolution achieved victory, Warren Christopher was assistant secretary of state. Christopher — who apparently saw his political future ruined as a result of the victory of the Islamic revolution — following the arrival of the Democrats in the White House after 12 years, once again put the policy of open hostility with the Iranian nation at the top of his agenda. The U.S. secretary of state pursues his policy of confrontation against Iran with accusations of such things as encouraging terrorism, violating human rights, excessive arming, and finally seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

During the 33 months of the Clinton presidency, Warren Christopher, who has continually and desperately tried to gain prestige for himself by opposing the Islamic revolution, has suffered numerous humiliating defeats; the latest of which were the failure to convince Washington's allies to impose economic sanctions against Iran and the failure to convince Moscow and Beijing not to cooperate with Iran in nuclear technology.

Iran's agreements with Russia and China on the transfer of nuclear technology — whose peaceful nature has always been stressed and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as the only legitimate international body, has confirmed their peaceful nature — have been the focus of U.S. conspiracies. So much so that the U.S. foreign policy apparatus, in particular Christopher himself, have put all the U.S. credibility eggs in the basket of the cancellation of these agreements. That is at a time when there are nearly 500 commissioned or under-construction nuclear power stations worldwide. According to current international conventions, no nation can be deprived of this human achievement.

The fact is that the entire world, particularly the Americans, are well aware of Iran's intention not to produce and proliferate nuclear weapons. But the crucial point is Iran's access to the gateways of modern knowledge and technology. If we accept that knowledge is power, then an Iran equipped with modern knowledge and efficient and devoted manpower can easily overcome problems through reliance on Islamic ideals and the rich God-given resources. Therefore, advancement in science and technique is seen as a long leap towards the realization of Islamic revolution aspirations and severing dependency from foreign countries. That is the very point which has infuriated the enemies to the point of madness.

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Radio Addresses 'Backfired' Efforts

NC3009073195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 30 Sep 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chinese Government has refuted allegations by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that it has abrogated its nuclear cooperation agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. After meeting with his Chinese counterpart, who is in New York to participate in the UN General Assembly's annual session, Warren Christopher had alleged that Beijing had been convinced not to implement its agreement to sell two nuclear reactors to Tehran. However, yesterday the Chinese foreign minister stated at the United Nations that this agreement has been suspended because of operational problems such as the unsuitability of the site chosen for construction of the two nuclear units.

News agencies report that in his meeting with his U.S. counterpart, Qian Qichen also underlined the peacefulness of Beijing's nuclear cooperation with Tehran and recalled that the International Atomic Energy Agency, too, has endorsed this fact.

Thus, Washington's new efforts to obstruct the transfer of nuclear technology to our country has failed. The United States had previously tried to prevent Russia from implementing its agreement with Iran on completion of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. U.S. President Clinton's visit to Russia in May was the culminating point of these efforts. But, despite Washington's political and propaganda pressures and repeated U.S. threats to sever economic assistance to Russia, Moscow turned Clinton's call down and emphasized its independence in foreign policy and the importance of its ties with Tehran.

Disappointed by Russia, Washington then turned to Beijing and focused its efforts on abrogating China's nuclear agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the Chinese Government also has not given in to the U.S.'s many-sided pressures, and—by insisting on maintaining its independence in foreign policy—it condemns interference by the United States or by any other country in its domestic affairs and foreign relations.

The Chinese and Russian stands became stronger especially after the United States' failure to gain the support of its allies to impose sanctions on Iran. Most experts believe that thus, U.S. efforts to isolate Iran have backfired and that it is actually Washington that has been isolated by its approach to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Many observers also consider the unconventional and unfit remarks by the U.S. Secretary of State, which have greatly weakened that country's diplomatic credibility, stem from the White House's rage toward the world community for not following Washington's policies on Iran.

Spokesman Comments on Nuclear Nonproliferation

LD3009105795 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Sep 30 (IRNA) — Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi here Friday [29 September] reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not interested in acquiring nuclear arms and supports the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region.

He announced that such political measures taken by the Islamic Republic has exerted pressures on the Zionist regime which does not recognize the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres Friday claimed that Iran was not facing a shortage of energy sources and concluded that the Islamic Republic was not in need of nuclear energy.

He called on other countries not to provide nuclear technology to Iran, referring to the nuclear cooperation between the Islamic Republic and China.

Commenting on the hue and cry made by Zionist officials with regards to the peaceful use of atomic energy by Iran, Mohammadi stressed that the illegitimate regime of Israel, which was based on terrorism and aggression, tries to accuse other countries in order to justify its illegal actions.

The Iranian official also denied the claims of U.S. officials who said that the nuclear accord signed between Tehran and Beijing has been cancelled. Mohammadi remarked that the U.S. officials had better refer to the statements made by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

On Friday in New York, Qichen announced that due to problems with the site's suitability, the deal to provide nuclear reactors to Iran was suspended.

The Chinese official reiterated that china is interested to sell such reactors to the Islamic Republic of Iran for peaceful purposes and under the supervision of the IAEA.

Qichen underlined that biased reports have been published regarding the Irano-Chinese nuclear cooperation.

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U.S. Urged To Pressure Israel Over Hijacker

NC2809121695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Hijacker Must Be Handed Over to Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Iranian passenger airliner was hijacked Tuesday [19 September] and taken to Israel where it landed at Ovda Air Base instead of being allowed to land in a civil airport.

A steward of the airliner, the hijacker surrendered to Israeli officials as soon as the plane landed. According to international rules and regulations Israel must have returned the plane and the passengers as soon as the hijacker left the plane. But Israel did not do so.

About 180 passengers, among them women, the elderly and children, were stranded in an alien land because of the Israeli violation of international law. The Israeli delay in returning them has created anxiety among the passengers.

In the beginning Tel Aviv declared that it would return the plane and its passengers. However, in defiance of international law, it interrogated the victims of the hijacking. Delay in returning the passengers and the plane was tacit support of hijacking and terrorism.

Israel is vulnerable to hijacking. Therefore, it should shun encouraging this act of terrorism. The hijacker of the Iranian airliner is a terrorist and, hence, should have been treated as a culprit. Israel must not even consider the hijacker's request for asylum and hand him over to Iran for trial in order to discourage similar acts in the future.

Ironically, the U.S. did not condemn the hijacking. If the U.S. is not a sponsor of terrorism and hijacking, it should condemn the terrorist act and ask Israel to hand over the terrorist hijacker to Iran immediately.

It is incumbent upon the international community to pressure Israel to hand over the hijacker to Iran without delay.

Official: Israeli Attack Would Face 'Stunning Blow'

NC0110102695 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tehran, Oct 1 (AFP) — Iran's air force chief has warned Israel against any attacks on nuclear installations in Iran, saying his force would retaliate with a "stunning blow," a newspaper said Sunday [1 October].

Brigadier General Habibi Baghai told KEYHAN-E HAVA'I weekly that he did not take "Israeli threats (against Iran) seriously because they are not in a position to make such threats."

"They (the Israelis) are fully mistaken if they think they have the capability to carry out their threats without reprisal," he said. "The air force stands fully prepared to inflict a stunning blow on them."

Baghai said the force had "improved its defense systems and repaired planes" damaged during the 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

It was the second warning issued this week by a top military official here against any Israeli attempt to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities.

General Mohsen Reza'i, the head of the elite Revolutionary Guards, told RESALAT daily last Sunday that Iran would "undoubtedly respond sharply" in case of any Israeli attacks.

"But I think Israeli threats against us are not serious, because if they were they wouldn't make them," he said without referring to any specific threats from the Jewish state. [passage omitted]

Radio: 'Arafat-Israel Accord May Extend Intifadah

LD0110170395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 1 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the PLO economic constrictions have increased following the compromise agreement, after the signing in Washington of the agreement for the second phase for the extension of the self-rule plan, U.S. President Bill Clinton signed a bill yesterday, according to which the United States will increase its foreign aid for the improvement of the economic situation of the self-rule establishment in a small part of the West Bank. This action is taking place when so far Washington and Tel Aviv had prevented continuation of the foreign aid to the PLO in order to make 'Arafat control the struggles of the Islamic groups. Also, other Western states have carried out merely one-third of their financial pledges because of Washington's pressure on them in order to exert pressure on 'Arafat to control Islamic groups and set aside the right of sovereignty by the Palestinians over the occupied lands, and because they seek to exert their views on the compromise process.

Two years ago, when the first phase of the self-rule agreement was being signed, the Western governments pledged to assist the self-rule establishment by as much as $2.4 billion during the five- year transition process. So far only $600 million of that has been paid by them.

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The extent of the PLO's financial dependence on the Western governments' aid increased when most of the Palestinians living in foreign countries cut off their continuing payments for liberation to the PLO in order to oppose 'Arafat's compromise agreement with the Zionist regime. Those payments totalled about $1 billion and comprised half of PLO's annual income before the signing of the compromise accord. Those payments were either made directly by Palestinians or were collected by the host governments and were put at the PLO's disposal under the title of foreign aid for the purpose of the struggle against Israel. But, after the signing of the compromise accord, those Palestinians who opposed the compromise have diverted their aid from the PLO to struggling groups. That leads to the strengthening of the front that opposes the compromise.

At the moment, when foreign aid is considered to be the main factor in the economic reconstruction of the self-rule region, 'Arafat is also obliged to meet the political requirements of aid- givers in order to receive the foreign aid and at the same time, seek the Zionist regime's agreement to receive such aid. Under such circumstances the Palestinian people have no place in the reconstruction of the West Bank and securing their demands. That is why it can be predicted that a further expansion of the Islamic intifadah in Palestine for the revival of the Palestinians' right of sovereignty over the occupied lands is possible.

Radio Views Syria's Reluctance in Peace Efforts

NC0210081095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 2 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are scheduled to meet in Washington today to discuss what has been described as an attempt to extricate Damascus-Tel Aviv talks from impasse.

Following the signing of the Taba accord between the PLO and the Zionist regime all eyes are focused on Syria and the White House is seeking to motivate Syria to join the compromise trend. In the most recent round in Tir [22 June-22 July] between the chiefs of the Syrian Armed Forces and those of the Zionist regime, under U.S. supervision in Washington, the two sides failed to reach agreement. The fate of the Golan Heights and the manner of establishing new security arrangements were the main axes of talks between the chiefs of the army staffs of Syria and the Zionist regime.

So far Syria considers all security arrangements subject to the complete withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the Golan Heights. The Zionist regime insists that the deployment of a surveillance system on part of the Golan Heights is a precondition for reconciliation with Syria. But Damascus considers such arrangements a violation of its territorial integrity. Damascus has consistently raised the slogan of land for peace and called for the withdrawal of the Zionist regime to the 1967 borders. Tel Aviv continues to raise issues of security and to violate the clear stipulations of Resolution 242 and all other UN resolutions by which the Zionist regime is obligated to withdraw from the occupied territories to continue usurping and dominating Arab territories.

Political analysts believe that separate compromises by some groups and Arab governments and the signing of individual agreements with the Zionist regime—aimed at isolating the Syrian leaders to coerce them into surrender—have put Syria in a difficult position. But Damascus has proved that it is not prepared to join the peace trend under any circumstances.

A compromise with the Zionist regime has not ensured even the minimum benefit for the Arab sides to the compromise; it has dealt a massive blow to Arab union and credibility, which so far Syria has proved it is not willing to barter easily.

Rafsanjani Addresses International Tehran Trade Fair

LD0110171095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 21st international Tehran trade fair opened today in the presence of and with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran's permanent international exhibitions site.

In his speech, the president said that the good reception of the 21st international Tehran trade fair by the various countries of the world and the qualitative and quantitative growth of the products being presented at the fair was the most important political message of the fair in response to the recent policy of the United States, imposing sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the elevated aims behind holding such fairs, and mentioned the following as the most important consequences of these fairs: The familiarization of the people and those involved in trade and industry with the realities of the world and the host country; the exchange of knowledge, cultural information, and the required intelligence involved in bringing about the creations of designers, managers,

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and industrialists; and the establishment of international understanding and peaceful coexistence. He added that fairs are one of the useful tools for creating international understanding, perfecting knowledge and science, and expanding sympathy and friendship between nations.

The president said that the most important political message of the fair was that it represented a clear reply to the U.S. Administration in connection with its crude policy of imposing an economic embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: The good reception by the various countries of the world and the qualitative and quantitative growth of the products on display at the 21st international Tehran trade fair is a practical and clear response to those people who believe that they can isolate a country and a nation or drive it out of the international arena by using their financial and political strength.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the variety of Iran's industrial products and the good quality of domestic goods in view of the country's scientific and technological capabilities and the existence of infrastructural facilities and added: These capabilities prove that Iran is now at such a level of economic strength that it cannot be restricted any longer and the crude measure taken by the U.S. Administration in intensifying its economic embargo on Iran is like an exercise in futility.

The president referred to Iran's special geographic position in the region as a major trade link, its extensive and reasonably priced transport facilities, and the trustworthy level of security in the country and said: This good opportunity must be seized in order to render the best possible service to international trade and to exchange information and coordinate needs.

Among the special characteristics of the 21st fair is the presence of Mexico, South Africa, and Iraq for the first time. The biggest display at the fair belongs to Germany.

Yazdi Delivers 'Second' Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2909153195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 29 Sep 95

["Second" Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The war [with Iraq] was imposed on us and we suffered much on the path of that holy defense. We had many martyrs and many disabled. But today we have full sovereignty and an Islamic power able to manage a country and a model for other countries to analyze the ability of Islam. Previously, Islam was a theory and even accused of belonging to the past, but it showed its ability in practice. During the war we were the target of military aggression. But the world later learned that the war was designed and supported by the world arrogance and that Baghdad entered the war against Iran.

However, do you think that the main planners of the war, specially the United States and Israel, have nothing more against us? Have they no more enmity against us? Although they realize that they are incapable, that the [Iranian] Government is powerful in military terms and has a popular [social] base; and that all the people provide the government with practical support, do you think they won't show any more enmity? Or are they going to try a different thing? Otherwise what is the reason for the current political agitations by the United States? What is the reason for the various propaganda that Israel seeks in every opportunity?

The fact that they initiated the economic sanctions and started going around the world to attract the support of this or that country — although they are practically defeated — indicates the continuation of their enmity. They continue their enmity through political agitation, economic sanctions, and more than anything else, through the cultural onslaught.

They are after the young generation. The very generation that filled and maintained the war fronts with its own blood; which because of the country's good management returned from the war fronts to enter the universities and to seek eduction, the sciences, discoveries and innovations — and to obtain high achievements. The enemy is after this young generation through various means. It might be through the very universities and debates that take place there. It might be through the press and the introduction of some issues in some low circulation or high circulation publications. It might be through some debates in certain meetings. In other words, the enemy seeks to destroy, the unity, uniformity, and association of the Islamic umma, in particular the young generation, by creating divisions.

As the Holy Defense Week and its excellent programs come to an end, we should refer to the fact that their enmity continues and that we must do something so they will not even entertain the idea of aggression. The enemy changes his designs to suite the needs of the day. He plans military aggression one day, cultural onslaught the next and economic aggression on the following. He seeks to initiate something against us according to the conditions of the day. But naturally the vigilance of the country's management and the high understanding of our public helps to thwart the enemy's designs. [crowd chants approval] [passage omitted]

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The revolution was successful because the imam [Khomeyni] was obeyed. In the imposed war, the holy defense, the enemy was defeated because the people accepted and obeyed the imam, the clergy, the position of guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult, and the leadership.

As long as we have this in our society, the enemy will not do anything because it cannot. But if, God forbid, the enemy puts a question mark over the main axes of power and the main levers of leadership and questions the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult...[pauses] There is nothing wrong with discussing guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult in schools or universities. However, if discussion leads to public opinion questioning the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult, well this is confronting the system; this means implementing the enemy's plot. Its military attack failed so it embarked on a cultural onslaught. We have to be vigilant. [passage omitted]

There was much discussion in the UN General Assembly session, but one point was very interesting: the negotiations [as heard] between U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I imagine that whoever listens to those speeches, even those gentlemen who were present and were listening to the speeches, can conclude easily that Mr. Christopher was very hostile toward Iran. He spoke about the general problems of the world and then blamed Iran. Just like that! He warned the United Nations about certain dangers and then he said, this is what the U.S. secretary of state said, well, briefly anyway, he spoke a lot but briefly he said: The expansion of technology in the world has increased the level of danger facing the world. And naturally, state-sponsored terrorism is dangerous. The organization [United Nations] should be aware of international crimes, of the danger of drugs. He listed all these dangers and threats and then quite simply made a clear accusation against Iran. He said: Iran is the number one supporter of terrorism and other acts, such as [seeking to acquire] weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons etc. And then he said: The international community should stand up to Iran.

Well, the esteemed foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran answered him. Let me add a few points. The U.S. secretary of state should be told: Using that platform to make accusations against a country is wrong in principle. You cannot just accuse a country of being the number one supporter of terrorism after talking about the threat of terrorism in general. You cannot say Iran takes the lead in terrorism, Iran wants weapons of mass destruction.

I am amazed. How many times do we have to hear the responsible officials of our country, the responsible international organizations, talk about this issue? How many times does the International Atomic Energy Agency have to make it clear that nothing of the sort is going on in Iran? How many times should it come here and conduct research and announce its findings officially? Has it not done so three or four times already? Did it not do so recently again? What are these allegations you are making against us? Why do you misuse that platform to make accusations against this country? As far as I am concerned, this is illegal.

So anyone who feels arrogant, feels powerful can come along and make allegations? Well, since they have no modesty this attitude is natural among the arrogant ones.

Well, our foreign minister gave his response and our newspapers made headlines out of his response. He said: The U.S. Government should stop thinking that it is both judge and international policeman. What is the difference between the United States and other countries? What is it about it that it thinks it is the international police force and the judge? What makes it think that it can pass judgment so that if it says anything it thinks it has given a final, irrevocable decree that has to be implemented?

Another thing which we have mentioned a few times from this tribune in the past and which is something that we as officials of the judiciary fully confirm and believe in, is that the Serb war criminals must be dealt with in a serious manner and should be put on trial. The concerned [international] prosecutor, as I mentioned on a previous occasion, must stop making excuses. The UN must really deal with these issues if it seriously intends doing something useful.

One must perhaps add that in the same way that the United States cannot act both as an international policeman and as a judge, the United Nations, too — considering the fact that its secretary- general speaks of the organization's lack of power in the face of international crises — will become progressively weaker and more discredited as long as it remains under the domination of arrogant powers and continues to open a different account for powerful countries. [sentence as heard]

The United Nations must not discriminate between a powerful country like the United States and a weak African state. If you continue this discrimination in your approaches, then naturally the organization will be made weaker and more powerless. [passage omitted]

The next issue is the Taba treaty which was signed after eight days of negotiations. [passage omitted] You are all aware of the reaction of the Palestinians toward

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the agreement, and you know about all their strikes and other forms of protest. You have also seen all the statements issued by groups opposing the treaty.

In fact, one must say that Mr. 'Arafat has committed yet one more act of treason against the Palestinians and has taken another step against them. I have had a look at the sections of the treaty which have been available to us. If you give it to a lawyer, I am sure he will be amazed.

However, if you look at it even as a layman, you will still be amazed how an individual who is the head of an organization and is supposed to promote the cause of his people, can give so many concessions to the opposite side and offer such huge concessions: The council elections are to be supervised by Israel, the people of Jerusalem must vote by mail and are not allowed to do it in person, security is to be left to Israeli forces, Jewish settlements will be under the rule of Israel, etc, etc. Whichever clause you look at, you are amazed and surprised. I would like to have a word with someone who specializes in such fields to see what will become of these clauses, unless of course the case is that 'Arafat wants to surrender completely. If this is the case, then we have no better definition for the expression of succumbing to the enemy.

How can anyone feel authorized to give away so many of the natural rights of the Palestinians and even put elections in the autonomous areas under the control of Israel, under the pretext of wanting to take a step forward for the people of Palestine and creating areas of self-rule for them? It is obvious what kind of elections one can expect and what the outcome will be.

Just as the Palestinian groups stated, we also believe that this treaty, seen by any fair and wise individual, must be condemned, as it cannot solve any problem. It must instead be called yet another compromise aimed at trampling on the rights of the people of Palestine.

You are more or less aware of what is going on in Bosnia. At a very sensitive juncture where there is no war, no peace — or there is war in the name of peace — the only thing that I could say is that the contact group of the Organization of Islamic Conference shoulders a very heavy responsibility. Particularly at a time when the contact group of the OIC is discussing matters with another contact group and the European Union, the OIC contact group — with the Islamic Republic of Iran as a member — should accept the heaviest of responsibilities toward restoring the rights of Bosnian Muslims and particularly toward [the country's] territorial integrity. We hope that its efforts come to fruition and prove effective.

The situation in Afghanistan is very tragic, and we have spoken about it in many occasions. [passage omitted] What we should mention again is that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Afghan problem cannot be solved by military means. The problem cannot be solved with weapons. The solution is a political one, and the rights of all groups should be preserved in order to end the conflicts and clashes and stop the country being torn apart. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Official Cited on Accepting U.S. Kashmir Mediation

BK0110160095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, has said that Pakistan is willing to accept mediation by any country, including the United States, on the Kashmir issue. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, who is on his way to New York to lead a parliamentary delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, said upon arriving in London that Pakistan had accepted the recent mediation offer by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, but that India had rejected it. He was commenting on the repor that the United States was interested in participating in the settlement of the Kashmir issue. Talking to APP, he said that Pakistan has decided to raise the Kashmir issue at every international forum in order to pressure India to settle the issue through negotiations.

Government Said Establishing U.S. Base in North

BK2709130395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Sep 95 p 16

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD (PPI)— Pakistan Muslim League (N) [PML-Nawaz], Northern Areas, has accused the government of setting up an American base in the sensitive Northern Areas.

Leaders of the PML (N) and its Youth Wing from Northern Areas told a news conference at the Party Central Secretariat here on Monday [25 September] that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government is bent upon paving the way for direct control of Americans in the sensitive Northern Areas.

Secretary-General of the PML (N), Northern Areas, Said-ur-Rehman Khan, Secretary-General Youth Wing, Bashir Ahmed Khan, Sher Dil Khan, President, MSF [Muslim Students Federation] Northern Areas and Member District Council Gilgit Jan Alam informed

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newsmen that there has been an influx of Ambassadors and other important personalities of various foreign countries in the Northern Areas for the last one month. They claimed that these people have been frequently seen in these sensitive areas.

The Muslim League (N) leaders claimed that the government wants to set up American base at 'Deusai' near Austore which will embarrass friendly neighbouring countries.

They alleged that the government is patronising foreign interests in these sensitive areas under the garb of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.

The PML (N) leaders alleged that even after the lapse of one year, the government has yet to give its reform package for the Northern Areas despite a wide-range publicity campaign for the same. They said one year has passed but there is neither any development project nor employment opportunities for the unemployed youth.

Bhutto Addresses U.S. Ties, Kashmir, Afghanistan

BK0110145695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the adoption by the U.S. Senate of the Brown Amendment is a big victory for Pakistan, which took a moral and principled stand on various issues. She was talking to newsmen in Islamabad today. The prime minister said this amendment would help promote cooperation between Pakistan and the United States. She made it clear that Pakistan had not compromised on principles.

Asked about reports that the opposition plans to launch another movement from Karachi, the prime minister said people of Karachi wanted peace and were tired of strikes or any other movement. She said she had promised with the people of Karachi that her government would utilize all available means for restoring peace in the city. About talks with the Altaf Group, the prime minister said that there should be no calls for strikes at the time of a dialogue. She said the Altaf Group will have to abandon its support to terrorists and give up strike calls. The government, she said, was ready to consider their demands if they agreed to abandon such acts. The prime minister said her government is taking necessary steps to restore peace and bring about an all round development in Karachi. She listed various steps taken in this direction and said the people of Karachi themselves will have to play their role to bring peace in the city by rejecting those indulging in terrorism.

The prime minister said she wanted to have a good working relationship with the opposition and she sought their cooperation on national issues. About the PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] government functioning in the Punjab, she said she wanted stability in the province and the chief minister, Mr. Arif Nakai, was there to ensure it. They would extend full support to him.

About the price hike, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that the pressure was due to supply position. The government has been successful in bringing down budget deficit from 8 percent to 5.6 percent, which is a record in 20 years.

About Kashmir, the prime minister said the situation has gone out of the control of the Indian Government and there is no consistency in that country's policy. They failed to hold elections because the All Parties Hurriyat Conference rejected and opposed them. They held local elections in the mainly Buddhist dominated Leh Valley and out of 26, 22 candidates returned unopposed. This piecemeal elections showed that India is not in a position to even hold elections for local councils.

About Afghanistan, the prime minister said majority of the Afghan people are friends of Pakistan. She said although Pakistan wanted the Afghan refugees to go back to their homes, but would not send them back forcibly. She regretted that the Pakistan Embassy was attacked twice, but made it clear that Pakistan will not be provoked by such actions. She said Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud wanted Pakistan to wage war for them, but Pakistan has a principled policy that it will not interfere in the internal affairs of that country.

She said our relations with Iran are friendly and borders are open and normal trade going on. The two countries are cooperating in the construction of the Clifton Bridge in Karachi and for an oil refinery.

Official Comments on Islamabad Support for Kabul

BK0210030395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly was informed last night that Pakistan gives priority to relations with neighboring Islamic countries, including Afghanistan, and that it supported the Afghan people in the 14-year jihad against foreign aggression.

George Clement, parliamentary secretary of the Foreign Ministry, told the house that the attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul contravenes the charters of the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Nonaligned Movement. He told the house that the government is not against the Afghan people. However, it cannot extend undue support to the Kabul regime which controls only five out of the 32 provinces

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of Afghanistan and enjoys the support of only Tajiks. All other groups have withdrawn their support to the Rabbani government in Kabul and this has also been affirmed by Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN special envoy for Afghanistan, in a letter recently.

The National Assembly was informed that 14 [figure as heard] Afghan diplomats have been expelled from the country in accordance with diplomatic norms. The call-attention notice on the issue was given by Chaudhary Jafar Iqbal and other members of the assembly. The house was adjourned indefinitely after dealing with the notice.

Iranian Envoy Supports UN Efforts in Afghanistan

LD2609084595 Tehran IRNA in English 0659 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 26, IRNA — The latest developments in Afghanistan were discussed in a meeting held here Monday [25 September] by the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan, Mohammad Mahdi Akhundzadeh, and Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister An'amollah.

The meeting was conducted following an exchange of views between Tehran and Islamabad concerning Afghanistan issues.

Akhundzadeh reiterated in the meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran would exert its utmost to stop the massacre of innocent people in Afghanistan and would also persuade both sides to seek for political solutions to the crisis.

Akhundzadeh added that Iran would also support U.N. measures for alleviating the situation in this neighboring country.

The two officials reviewed during the meeting the situation in various regions of Afghanistan and called for a continuation of cooperation in this field.

Meanwhile, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, made a short stop in Islamabad Saturday following his trip to Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif and his talks with Golboddin Hekmatyar and General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

'Consensus' Reported in Islamabad-Tehran Talks

BK2709134495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Sep 95 p 1,5

[Report by Aroosal Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] ISLAMABAD, Sept 25: The Afghan clouds hovering over Pak-Iran relations seem to be dissipating and consensus appears to have emerged between the two long term allies.

After several rounds of crucial talks held between Iran and Pakistan at the senior diplomats level over the last ten days, the prospects of UN-sponsored solution to the Afghan imbroglio have brightened considerably. In the wake of Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali's recent flurry of tours to Tehran, Riyadh and Rome followed by a two hour long meeting with the visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ala'eddin Borujerdi at Islamabad on Sunday [24 September], diplomatic sources conclude that this has now been established without any doubt that there is no divergence of views between the two key players of the Afghan scenario on the possible options.

According to the highly placed official sources Iran and Pakistan are on the same wave length over the Afghan question and are agreed amongst themselves to follow UN sponsored solution to the dispute.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad claimed that as a result of timely meetings between the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister and the leaders of the rival Afghan groups there are strong reasons to believe that President Borhanoddin Rabbani may eventually agree to accept UN peace formula for transfer of power to a 22-member interim government representing all the key Afghan groups. As a consequence of the three way shuttle diplomacy of Pakistan, Iran and UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Afghanistan.

Taleban's threatened assault on Kabul has been called off twice in a week's time. Obviously this strategy is aimed at pushing through UN peace plan by persuading Rabbani to quit. Right now as he is surrounded on three sides by hostile forces.

While official sources say that Sunday's meeting between Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Ala'eddin Borujerdi mainly centred around evolving viable joint strategy for saving Kabul from total destruction in the three pronged offensive on the Afghan Capital, The Muslim understands that talks between the two sides were also aimed at removing misunderstanding that had cropped up after the fall of Herat.

The Foreign Minister during his visit to Tehran had invited a special Iranian envoy to visit Afghanistan to obtain first hand knowledge of the objective realities vis-a-vis Pakistan's alleged support to Taleban. The immediate outcome was the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister's visit to Afghanistan followed by extensive consultations with Islamabad.

In the first phase of his shuttle diplomacy, Ala'eddin Borujerdi met several Afghan leaders including General Dostam and Hekmatyar. He had extensive rounds of discussions with them in order to persuade them to avoid further bloodshed in Afghanistan. Later, Mr Borujerdi

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held talks with Mahmood Mestiri in the context of UN peace formula. Foreign Office sources say that next major move in this direction is likely to materialise after Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's return from UN General Assembly around the 5th of next month. Meanwhile all efforts will be focused on persuading anti-Rabbani groups not to attack Kabul.

While Foreign Office sources are at pain at claiming that all is well on Pak-Iran front there have been widespread speculations that because of the fall of Herat relations cooled down between Islamabad and Tehran and entered a critical phase where Pakistan had to make up its mind whether it wanted access to the El Dorado of CARs at the cost of its close relations with Iran or reach the goal more slowly but retain the traditional warmth. [passage omitted]

India Said Cause of 'Instability' in Afghanistan

BK0110134095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, has said that India is creating differences and instability in Afghanistan. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, he reiterated Pakistan's policy of neutrality and noninterference in Afghanistan. Regarding his recent visit to China, he said the country supports Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir in that the Kashmiris should be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination.

Afghan Party Welcomes Expulsion of Kabul Diplomats

BK2309160295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan National Liberation Front led by the former Afghan president, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, has welcomed the decision of the Government of Pakistan to expel 13 Afghan diplomats. A press release of the front issued in Peshawar today says the attack and vandalism of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul is contrary to all recognized international diplomatic norms. The front very much appreciates Pakistan for supporting the people of Afghanistan during the Afghan jihad. The front also described as incorrect and baseless the allegations of Kabul authorities about Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Rebel 'Strike' Reportedly Kills 22 Policeman

BK2909124895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces never carry out aerial attacks on civilian targets as accused by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The Sri Lanka Air Force targets only clearly identified and confirmed LTTE positions for such attacks. Military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, says that the security forces have requested civilians to be at least one kilometer away from LTTE bases and not to participate in any LTTE meetings or processions. Brigadier Munasinghe told reporters at the weekly news briefing yesterday that according to reports there was an LTTE meeting headed by a deputy leader of the Sea Tigers to commemorate the death anniversary of Dileepan. There was a gathering brought forcibly by the LTTE when the bombing mission was carried out. The security forces were not aware of this particular meeting which was supposed to be held inside the Sea Tiger base or by the side of it. He said that the security forces would never hesitate to attack LTTE positions particularly Sea Tiger bases which are attacking the Navy in the area.

Responding to several questions, Brigadier Munasinghe pointed out that on this particular day the school nearby was closed. The LTTE had taken over many public meetings including schools for their use. Brigadier Munasinghe added that it was not the first time that the LTTE has accused the Army of civilian casualties.

The operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense says that the LTTE terrorists attacked the Kalkudah police station in the Batticaloa District killing at least 22 policemen around midnight yesterday. Over 150 terrorists are reported to have taken part in the pre-dawn strike. A military spokesman said that army reinforcements were rushed to the area and that the situation is brought under control. Clearing operations are now in progress. Around noon yesterday, terrorists attempted to attack troops and picket there at Konnathurai about 14 kilometers northwest of Batticaloa. They threw a hand grenade at a woman who alerted troops. A child who was with the woman was injured and taken to the Batticaloa Hospital. No casualties were reported amongst the troops. Terrorists also fired at a route clearing patrol at Poontai in the Trincomalee District. They retaliated and the terrorists withdrew. Two soldiers were injured in the confrontation and were taken to the Trincomalee Navy Hospital. In Iralai, Jaffna troops confronted a group of terrorists killing one.

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Government Reportedly Launches 'Fresh Offensive'

BK0210031995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0243 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 2 (AFP) — Heavy fighting erupted in northern Sri Lanka as security forces launched a fresh offensive against Tamil guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka, defence sources said Monday [2 October].

At least seven soldiers were killed and another 50 wounded in the infantry advance against positions held by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) inside the Jaffna peninsula begun Sunday, the sources said.

"This is a limited operation and troops are now dominating in Atchchuveli which they re-took from the terrorists. There are lot of terrorist casualties, and we are in the process of taking stock now," a defence official said.

He said soldiers broke out of their defence lines at the main Palaly military complex located within the LTTE-dominated Jaffna peninsula and advanced towards Atchchuveli to the southeast of Palaly.

The offensive was partly aimed at smashing mortar launching positions of the LTTE used in recent weeks to mount mortar bomb attacks against the airfield at Palaly, the sources said.

The LTTE, in a statement from its London office, said that 5,000 soldiers were involved in the latest military campaign and claimed that five civilians were killed in air attacks carried out by the security forces.

"LTTE fighters are giving stiff resistance in order to halt the military advance," the Tiger statement said.

Tamil guerrillas are leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland for the island's Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern regions.

Further on 'Major Offensive'

BK0210073995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 2 (AFP) — Heavy hand-to-hand battles raged in northern Sri Lanka Monday [2 October] as the military launched a major offensive against Tamil rebels, losing at least 12 soldiers in the initial fighting, defence officials said.

Thousands of soldiers from the Palaly military complex in the Jaffna peninsula advanced towards positions of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who were providing stiff resistance, said military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe.

Defence sources said at least 12 soldiers were killed and about 50 to 60 troopers wounded. Most of the army casualties were caused by mortar bombs fired by the LTTE, defence sources said, adding the military offensive was aimed at taking out the rebel gun positions, which had been used in recent weeks to attack the airfield at Palaly.

The rebels' clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, said six civilians were killed and 53 wounded in the army action but this could not be independently confirmed. It said no rebels had been killed.

The offensive began Sunday and troops had reached Atchchuveli to the southeast of Palaly.

"Troops are now dominating in Atchchuveli which they re-took from the terrorists. There are lot of terrorist casualties and we are in the process of taking stock now," a defence source said.

The LTTE said that 5,000 ground troops were involved in the army's advance and claimed that thousands of civilians were fleeing the battle zone and seeking refuge in the western part of the peninsula.

"Aerial and artillery bombardments are being extensively used to pave the way for the ground troops to advance... LTTE fighters are giving stiff resistance in order to halt the military advance," the LTTE said in a separate statement issued from its London office Monday.

An offensive in Jaffna had been expected before the onset of monsoon rains which make prolonged fighting more difficult for both sides.

Heavy rains prevent the use of main battle tanks on muddy terrain but also make the crude locally-made anti-personnel mines ineffective when water gets into the battery operated triggering devices.

The voice of Tigers said the army had some 35,000 soldiers stationed inside the sprawling Palaly military complex to mount an even bigger offensive before the end of the year.

The Tiger remarks came as deputy defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte told a meeting with the Buddhist clergy Sunday that the war with the Tamil Tigers would be fought to a finish within three months.

The Tamil Tigers are leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland for the island's Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern regions. More than 50,000 people have died in the 23-year-old conflict.

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